

TICK ATTACK

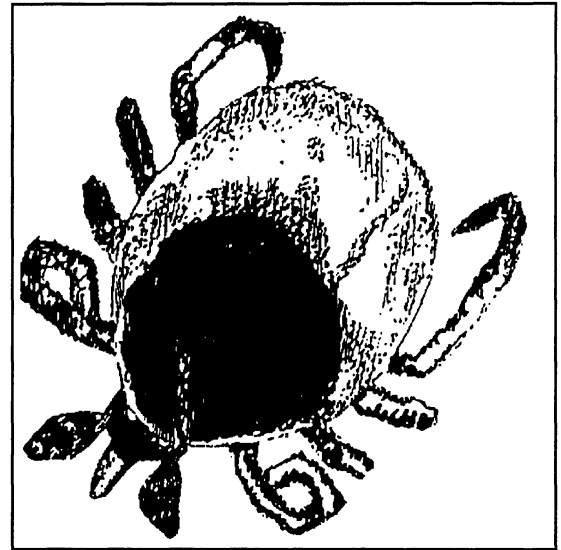
They suffered from chills, fever and headaches. The victims' necks and joints became stiff, their muscles ached and they suffered from severe **fatigue**. The city of Lyme, Connecticut was not a fun place to be.

The problem in Lyme was finally traced to the deer tick. People have been aware of the common dog tick for hundreds of years. The insects don't fly or hop. They simply drop from a limb or high grass onto an animal and feed on its blood. A tick will hang onto its **host** until the tick's body looks as if it will explode and then it simply drops off. Dog tick bites sometimes cause a slight itch, but no serious problem. However, doctors discovered that the much smaller deer tick carried a dangerous germ.

Since being discovered in Connecticut, lyme disease has been reported in forty-five other U. S. states, with the most serious cases in the northeastern part of the country and the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Most victims don't even remember being bitten. Their health **gradually** becomes worse. Their stiff joints make it difficult for them to walk and move around. In the most serious cases, organs, including the heart, become infected and patient's life is **threatened**.

Experts say that the best **prevention** of lyme disease is to use common sense. If you plan to walk in the woods, high grass or low brush, wear protective clothing. Long sleeve shirts, long pants, socks and heavy boots will help stop the ticks from getting to your skin. Instead of tramping through the bushes, stay on walking trails and paths where there are fewer insects. **Entomologists** have also learned that some insect repellents can turn ticks away.

Finally, when you return from your walk, carefully inspect yourself, your clothing and any pets that **accompanied** you. If a tick is found, use a tweezers to grip the head of the insect and pull it straight out. A deer tick does not **transmit** lyme disease unless it has been on a person or animal for five or more days. But be careful. If the head of the bug is not removed, the risk of contracting disease still exists. If you want to be sure you are rid of the tick, place a drop of vegetable oil on the bite. Unable to breathe, the creepy critter will either **suffocate** or give up and drop off.



Glossary Entries

accompanied--went with

entomologists--scientists who study insects

fatigue--no energy

gradually--slowly

host--food provider

prevention--way to avoid

suffocate--die from lack of air

threatened--at risk

transmit--pass along

activities for science shorts: general science #1

TICK ATTACK

Vocab Corner

Use these words in one or more puzzle, riddle, or poem.

fatigue	host	threatened
gradually	prevention	entomologists
transmit	suffocate	accompanied

Just for Fun

Lyme disease can cause swelling and stiffening of the body joints. Use information and definitions in the story to fill in the blanks below. Then, place each boxed letter in the matching numbered space in the Secret Word Box to see what joint ailments are often called.

1. Ticks feed on the blood of ____ _____
2. It is safer not to walk in high grass or ____ .

3. no energy ____ _____
4. Stay on walking trails and ____ . ____ _____
5. ____ fatigue is a sign of lyme disease. ____ _____
6. Remember to check your ____ for ticks.

7. Common sense is the best -- ____ _____
8. Lyme disease can cause-- ____ _____

Secret Word Box

 (joint ailment)

In Your Words

1	E									
	N	2	3							
	T	A	L	4						
	O	C	Y	T	5	6				
	M	C	M	H	G	S	7			
	O	O	E	R	R	U	T	8		
	L	M	D	E	A	F	R	F		
	O	P	I	A	D	F	A	A		
	G	A	S	T	U	O	N	T	9	10
	I	N	E	E	A	C	S	I	D	H
	S	I	A	N	L	A	M	G	E	O
	T	E	S	E	L	T	I	U	E	S
	S	D	E	D	Y	E	T	E	R	T

Write clues for the above puzzle answers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

A Science Stretch

An entomologist is a scientist who specializes in the study of insects. Name the specialty of each of these scientists.

botanist	ornithologist
astronomer	meteorologist