

Introduction

Before you read, think about the following questions.

How much do you know about bed bugs? Why do you think bed bugs are becoming more common?

Background Reading: Bed bugs*

Many people think that bed bugs are a new problem in North America. In reality, bed bugs have been around for hundreds of years. In the early twentieth century bed bugs were a huge problem and many homes had bed bugs. However, in the 1950s bed bugs almost completely disappeared. This was largely due to new pesticides, especially a pesticide called DDT, that were very effective in killing bed bugs. However, recently bed bugs have become a big problem again. DDT is no longer thought safe to use and newer pesticides do not work as well on bed bugs. Further, people travel more and many people know neither how to prevent nor how to detect bed bugs infestations. Many large cities in North America now have bed bug problems. It is important to learn as much as possible about bed bugs so you can keep your home bed bug free!

1. How long have there been bed bugs in North America?
2. Why did the number of bed bugs decrease in the 1950s?
3. What are two reasons bed bugs are becoming such a big problem?
4. What parts of America now have bed bug problems?

Background Reading: Questions

Food for thought

1. What would you do if you found bed bugs in your home?
2. If you knew someone had bedbugs in their home would you still be comfortable staying overnight? Why or why not?

*information obtained from:

<http://www.techletter.com/Archive/Technical%20Articles/bedbugcomeback.html>
<http://www.bedbugcentral.com/bedbugs101/topic.cfm/history-resurgence>
<http://www.history.com/news/2010/08/31/theyre-back-a-bed-bug-history/>

The Audio

In this Audio, you will hear CBC journalists Lydia Neufeld and Rick Harp interviewing Sandra Hamilton about bed bugs in Edmonton and the best ways to deal with bed bugs if you find them.

Predicting

Have you ever heard about bed bugs before? Do you know what the signs of bed bugs are and how to prevent them?



Now listen to the Audio – the introduction is here to help you get started...

SPEAKER	BED BUGS
Lydia	Bed bugs. Those two words can just set the heart a pounding and make you just feel a little itchy. Turns out with just cause here in Edmonton.
Rick	In a recent survey of local landlords, 80% said they've dealt with the pest in the past five years. But the problem's not confined to apartment buildings. Sandra Hamilton wants you to know what to look for where you live. She's a public health inspector with Alberta Health Services and she joins us now. Good morning.