

Alexander Fleming (1881 - 1955)



Sir Alexander Fleming was born on August 6, 1881 in Ayrshire, Scotland. The Scottish biologist and inventor is widely regarded for his discovery of penicillin, a drug that is used to kill harmful bacteria. He studied medicine from 1901 at the St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in Paddington.

His work on immunology, bacteriology, and chemotherapy is considered groundbreaking and highly influential.

Fleming had a genius for technical ingenuity and original observation. His work on wound infection and lysozyme, an antibacterial enzyme found in tears and saliva, guaranteed him a place in the history of bacteriology. But it was his discovery of penicillin in 1928, which started the antibiotic revolution, that sealed his lasting reputation and which is actually considered as one of the most famous and fortunate accidents of the 20th century.

You better get ready for a funny and unbelievable story now:

Alexander Fleming didn't clean up his workstation before going on vacation one day in 1928. When he came back, Fleming discovered that one of his bacterial cultures had been contaminated by the spores of a certain fungus. When he wanted to throw the contaminated sample away he noticed that wherever the fungus spread, no bacteria settled there.

