

CHRISTIAAN EIJKMANN

SIMPLEX NON VERI SIGILLUM



Student Workbook: Please, hand in to your teacher at the end of each class.

Student name: _____

Date of class: _____

As a debilitating and sometimes fatal disease spread across the West Indies in the late nineteenth century, one man devoted his efforts to searching for a cure. This man was Christiaan Eijkman and the disease was beriberi.

Who Was Christiaan Eijkman?

Christiaan was born in 1858 in the small town of Nijkerk, in The Netherlands. He was the seventh child of Christiaan Eijkman and Johanna Alida Pool. Christiaan's father was headmaster at the local school.

When young Christiaan was only a few years old, his family relocated to Zaandam, a larger city in the Netherlands. In Zaandam, he began his education at his father's school. He progressed with ease, and, in 1875, at the age of 17, he passed his university entrance exams.



After his high-school graduation, Christiaan chose to attend the Military Medical School at the University of Amsterdam. The government paid for his university education on account of his signing up to be an army physician upon his eventual graduation. He graduated with his doctorate in 1883.

Later that year, Christiaan was sent as the military's chief medical officer to the island of Java in the Indies. His work as army surgeon lasted only two years due to his contracting a severe case of malaria, forcing him to take a sick leave.

Unable to continue his research in Java during his recovery, Eijkman began studying a new field of medicine called bacteriology. He worked in Josef Forster's laboratory in Amsterdam and also in Robert Koch's bacteriological laboratory in Berlin, where he stayed for one year. Our story begins during Christiaan's stay in Berlin.

The story of Christiaan Eijkmann consists of five episodes. You will find out the meaning of the mysterious title "Simplex non veri sigillum" at the end of the last episode.

Episode 4: Rice is not just rice

Instructions: Step 1

Listen carefully as your teacher presents Episode 1 of the story.

Instructions: Step 2

Your teacher will assist you in forming discussion groups.

Discuss possible answers to the following questions.

- a) What was Eijkman trying to find out with his many versions of diet?
- b) Why could Eijkman not find an explanation?
- c) What advice would you have for Eijkman?

Instructions: Step 3

In the space below, please, summarize the answers formulated in your group.

Instructions: Step 4

Your teacher will discuss your answers with you in class.

