

## ANTHONY S. FAUCI, 1940–

Lexile 640L

Anthony S. Fauci is an American doctor. He is also the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). NIAID is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NIH is part of the US government. People there study diseases and medicine.

### Background

Fauci was born on December 24, 1940, in Brooklyn. This is a part of New York City. His parents were Stephen and Eugenia Fauci. His father was a **pharmacist**. A pharmacist is a person who gives people medication ordered by doctors. His father owned a drug store. The whole family worked there. Fauci helped deliver medications from his father's store. This helped him become interested in science and medicine. He attended a private Catholic high school. He then attended Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts. He studied pre-med. People who study pre-med want to become doctors. Then Fauci earned a medical degree from Cornell Medical College. He graduated first in his class.

### Education and Early Career

Fauci started working at NIH in 1968. In the 1980s, he met Christine Grady. They were both working in Brazil. Fauci and Grady later married. The couple had three daughters. Fauci became the director of NIAID in the early 1980s. At this time, AIDS became a serious problem. AIDS is a terrible disease. Fauci was in charge of the organization that could help. This changed his career.

AIDS was killing people quickly in the 1980s. At first, people did not know anything about the disease. But many people were dying. Some people were upset with the government. They felt the government was not doing enough to stop AIDS. A group of **protesters** came to NIH offices. People who protest gather together to try to change something they think is wrong.

Fauci talked to the protesters. They gave him new information about people in **marginalized** groups who were getting AIDS. People in marginalized groups are treated as unimportant. Fauci helped get medicine to these groups.

### Important Research

Fauci continued to fight the spread of AIDS throughout his career. Some people thought Fauci could have done more to prevent the spread of AIDS. But Fauci continued to do what he thought was best. Fauci also had to deal with other serious illnesses. In 2014, an outbreak of **Ebola** happened in a few countries in Africa. Ebola is a disease that causes bleeding. It is often deadly. Ebola

could spread easily and quickly. Some Americans became extremely concerned about Ebola spreading. Some people thought Fauci was not doing enough to prevent an Ebola outbreak in the United States. But no outbreak occurred. Fauci and others at NIH continued to study Ebola even after the outbreak ended.

In 2015, another disease alarmed Fauci. Scientists had known about the Zika virus for many years. But a Zika outbreak in South America was very serious. Pregnant women with Zika sometimes had babies with **birth defects**. These are medical conditions that happen before birth. Fauci warned the US government. He explained that NIH needed more money to study the Zika virus. He wanted to prevent the spread of Zika in the United States.

Fauci worked in the government for many years. He reported to multiple presidents. His organization spent billions of dollars every year. His work helped many people in the United States.



Anthony Fauci

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### ■ By Elizabeth Mohn

*Elizabeth Mohn has more than ten years' experience as an author and editor of educational materials for all ages.*

## COMPREHENSION TEST

### Multiple-Choice Questions

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1. When did Fauci and Christine Grady meet?

- A. when he talked with protestors
  - B. when he delivered medicine
  - C. when he researched illnesses
  - D. when he traveled to Brazil
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2. What job did Fauci's father have?

- A. protester
  - B. government official
  - C. pharmacist
  - D. college professor
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3. Which disease is known for causing birth defects?

- A. AIDS
- B. Ebola
- C. NIH
- D. Zika

### Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who gives people medication ordered by doctors.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ groups are groups of people who are treated as unimportant.

## COMPREHENSION TEST ANSWERS

### Multiple-Choice Questions

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- A. when he talked with activists
  - B. when he delivered medicine
  - C. when he researched illnesses
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2. What job did Fauci's father have?

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3. Which disease is known for causing birth defects?

- A. AIDS
- B. Ebola
- C. NIH
- D. Zika**

### Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

4. A pharmacist is a person who gives people medication ordered by doctors.

5. Marginalized groups are groups of people who are treated as unimportant.