

Knowledge Organiser

Humanities: History

Year 6

Topic: Medicine Through Time

Chronology: Key Dates

- Prehistoric Britain BC
- Roman Britain 43 AD
- Anglo-Saxon Britain 450
- Viking Britain 793
- Medieval Britain 1066
- Tudor Britain 1485
- Stuart Britain 1603
- Georgian Britain 1714
- Victorian Britain 1837
- Modern Britain 1901 – present

Causes of Illness

Natural

Miasma was the belief that illness was caused by bad smells.

Supernatural

The Church was highly influential and affected beliefs. People were taught that God could send illness as a punishment for sin or as a test. The Bible had stories of God sending leprosy (a skin disease) as a punishment. There was no cure so lepers were banished from their communities.

Astrology (alignment of planets and stars) was a supernatural explanation for disease also seen as important when diagnosing illness. Some people thought the Black Death was a result of a bad alignment of the planets.

Treatments

Physicians:

- Trained at a University for around 7 years
- Focus was to diagnose illness and recommend treatment (not to administer the treatment). They might use astrological charts.
- Physicians were expensive because there weren't many of them.

Apothecaries:

- Mixed herbal remedies.
- Some apothecaries also dabbled in alchemy and the supernatural providing charms and amulets

Surgeons:

- Needed sharp knives and steady hands!
- They regularly performed small surgery like pulling teeth and bleeding patients.

Plague doctors:



The Black Death

What was it?

- The Black Death was an outbreak of the bubonic plague.
- The bacteria were carried in fleas who arrived on rats on merchant ships.

What did people think caused it?

Natural – people believed it was caused by miasma
Supernatural – people believed it was God deserting mankind – it was a punishment for mankind's sins!

How was it treated?

- Natural – physicians tried bleeding and strong smelling herbs. They thought lighting a fire and boiling vinegar could drive off the bad air.
- Supernatural – recommendation was to confess sins and ask for forgiveness, but if someone caught the disease there was an idea that they were being punished so should die.

How was it prevented?

- The lack of medical knowledge about what caused it made it impossible to know how to cure it.
- Natural – leave cities and the bad air, or carry a posy of flowers. Avoid bathing as it was thought to open pores.
- Supernatural – pray or fast, go on pilgrimage, or show God how sorry you are by self-flagellation (whipping yourself).

Florence Nightingale

- Florence Nightingale went to hospitals in the Crimea and was horrified at conditions.
- She ordered that the hospitals be cleaned, that nurses treat the wounded and clean bedding and good meals were provided.
- Within 6 months the mortality rate dropped from 40% to 2%.
- She wrote 'Notes on Nursing' in 1859 which set out key roles of nurses
- In 1860, she set up a school at St Thomas' Hospital to train nurses on sanitary matters. She made nursing a respectable profession.
- Nightingale promoted 'pavilion style' hospitals with separate wards to keep infectious patients apart and ensure hospitals were made of materials that could be cleaned.

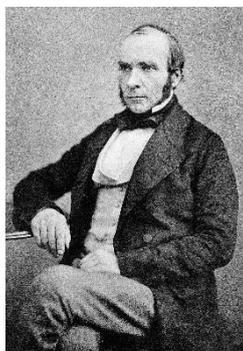


Edward Jenner

- Edward Jenner was a GP in Gloucestershire.
- He regularly treated cow maids for cowpox but realised they never got smallpox.
- He thought they were linked so he tested his theory by infecting a local boy with cowpox in 1786.
- He then tried to infect him with smallpox but he didn't get it. He wrote up his findings in 1798.
- The word vaccination comes from the Latin word 'vacca', meaning cow.



John Snow

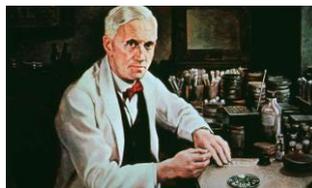


- Cholera was a disease that causes diarrhoea and sickness leading to death by dehydration and diarrhoea - it mainly affected the poor.
- John Snow observed cholera in the epidemic of 1848-49 and wrote up his theories suggesting it was not caused by miasma as it affected the guts not the lung.
- He also suggested that it was spread in water.
- During the Cholera outbreak in 1854 Snow investigated by mapping out the deaths. • He saw a pattern of most were near the Broad St pump. He removed the handle and the cholera went away.
- It was later found that the pump was close to a cess pit (less than a meter away) and that the waste was seeping into the water.



Alexander Fleming

- During the 1920s Fleming researches substances that could combat infections.
- In 1928 he noticed something unusual in a dirty petri dish.
- One had developed some mould, but the mould appeared to be killing off the harmful bacteria.
- He tested the mould and identified it as penicillin. He used it to cure a colleague's eye infection. He wrote about it and published his findings.



Florey & Chain

- Florey and Chain were scientists investigating antibiotics.
- They read Fleming's work and did extra tests in 1940 on infected mice. The results were promising.
- In 1941 they tested it on a police man who had blood poisoning, the penicillin worked.

NHS

- The National Health Service Act was published in 1946.
- The NHS was launched on July 5th 1948 by the Health Secretary, Aneurin Bevan.
- The NHS was founded out of the ideal that good healthcare should be available to all, regardless of wealth.
- The NHS was founded on three core principles: that it meets the needs of everyone; that it be free at the point of delivery; that it be based on clinical need, not ability
- The NHS values are: Working together for patients; Respect and dignity; Commitment to quality of care; Compassion; Improving lives; Everyone counts.



Vocabulary

Alchemy: the very old study and philosophy of how to change basic substances (such as metals) into other substances.

Apothecary: a shop that prepared and sold drugs or medicines

Astrology: (alignment of planets and stars)

Cholera: Cholera is an infection of the intestines caused by bacteria transmitted through liquid (water)

Disease: a change in a living body (as of a person or plant) that prevents it from functioning normally.

Leprosy: (a skin disease)

Miasma: the belief that illness was caused by bad smells.

Mortality rate: death rate

Sanitation: the act or process of making or keeping things free from filth, infection, or other dangers to health

Sin: an action that breaks a religious law

Supernatural: something beyond or outside of nature or the visible universe.

Surgeon: a doctor who performs surgery.

Physician: a doctor

Vaccination: immunization (vaccination) is a way to create immunity to (protection from) some diseases.