

History Knowledge Organiser

Year 4 Summer Terms

A study of disease and medicine from prehistoric and ancient times up to the launch of the NHS.

In the past, how did people cope with disease?

Why did medical treatment change throughout history?

Key Knowledge Questions and vocabulary

How was disease treated in prehistoric and ancient times?

Prehistoric/ Ancient Egypt/ Ancient Greece/ Romans - Very limited knowledge of the human body and illness. Chants and dances commonly used to treat illness along with herbal remedies. Development of channel theory and how heart rate is linked to health.

Witch doctor, chants, dances, illness, human body, heart rate, channel theory, herbal remedies, first aid, prehistoric, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Romans

What changes occurred in Britain during the middle ages that influenced the way diseases were treated?

Time of limited medical research. Rise in the influence of the Church which impacted on beliefs about illness and medicine. Popularity of medical superstitions.

Superstition, epidemic, Church, religion, illness, disease, medicine, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, middle ages/ medieval

***What was the impact of the Black Death?**

Spread of the Bubonic Plague from Asia to Europe. Infection carried through busy trade routes on germs, on fleas, on rats. Estimated up to 50% of the population died from the disease. No medical knowledge of what causes the plague and therefore no way of stopping it. Huge loss of life had significant impact on those who survived.

Black death, Bubonic Plague, Asia, Europe, germs, rats, disease, infection, epidemic.

What significant disease epidemics occurred during Tudor, Stuart and Elizabethan times?

First outbreak of smallpox followed by several epidemics. 3 major outbreaks of influenza. Significant rise in cases of typhus, measles and cholera. Further plague epidemics including the final Great Plague.

Smallpox, influenza, typhus, measles, cholera, plague, epidemic, infection, disease, illness, treatment, outbreak, Tudor, Stuart, Elizabethan

What key medical discoveries were made over the 12th to 18th centuries and how did this impact on the treatment of disease?

Increased knowledge of the human body (Vesalius and William Harvey) but cause of disease remained a mystery. No scientific knowledge of the cause or treatment for infection. Anton van Leewenhoek – discovered bacteria but did not understand its significance for the cause and treatment of disease. Edward Jenner – discovered that a vaccination could prevent smallpox, lead to first mass vaccination programme but could not be replicated for other diseases as Jenner could not explain how it worked.

Bacteria, disease, illness, medicine, vaccination, human body, discovery, smallpox, cowpox, infection

***What was 19th century medical treatment like and why was there a demand for further research?**

What can we find out about Victorian medicine from historical evidence? Victorian medicine, surgery and dentistry – procedures carried out with no aesthetic or knowledge of infection. Victorian times and on through the century - growth in industry and urbanisation resulted in further disease outbreaks. Wars demanded greater surgical knowledge. Increased money for public health and need for more medical research. Into the 20th century – decline in religion led to demand for medical solutions.

Victorian, industry, urbanisation, disease, illness, medicine, outbreak, surgery, public health, research, war

***What key medical discoveries were made in the 19th and 20th century and how have these influenced the treatment of disease in modern Britain?**

Louis Pasteur – discovered that germs cause disease

Robert Koch – identified bacteria that caused specific diseases

Charles Chamberland – discovered viruses (previously no knowledge of organisms smaller than bacteria). Worked with Pasteur to explain how vaccines worked.

Wilhelm Roentgen – discovered the use of x-ray

Pierre Louis – argued the importance of looking at the body when diagnosing illness not just symptoms

Various scientists including Robert Liston and James Simpson – discovered use of anaesthetic

Joseph Lister – pioneered the importance of antiseptic and cleanliness during surgery.

Alexander Fleming - discovery of penicillin

Germs, disease, bacteria, disease, illness, medicine, virus, vaccine, anaesthetic, antiseptic, cleanliness, surgery, penicillin, x-ray

How did the launch of the NHS change medical treatment in Britain?

Access to free health care for all. Much more widespread availability of vaccinations. Greater developments in medical research and surgical procedures.

NHS, health care, vaccine, research, surgery, illness, disease, medicine