

Year: 6



Term: Summer 2

Key Questions:

What is the NHS? How did it begin?

How did The Black Death impact Britain at the time?

What was medical treatment like before the Victorian era?

What are some of the most important medical discoveries from the past 100 years?

Can you name a medical treatment from the medieval period?

Key People:

- Alexander Fleming
- Edith Cavell
- Florence Nightingale
- Mary Seacole
- Louis Pasteur
- Marie Curie
- Local Link – Harold Moody

History of Medicine

Enquiry Question: How has medicine changed through time?

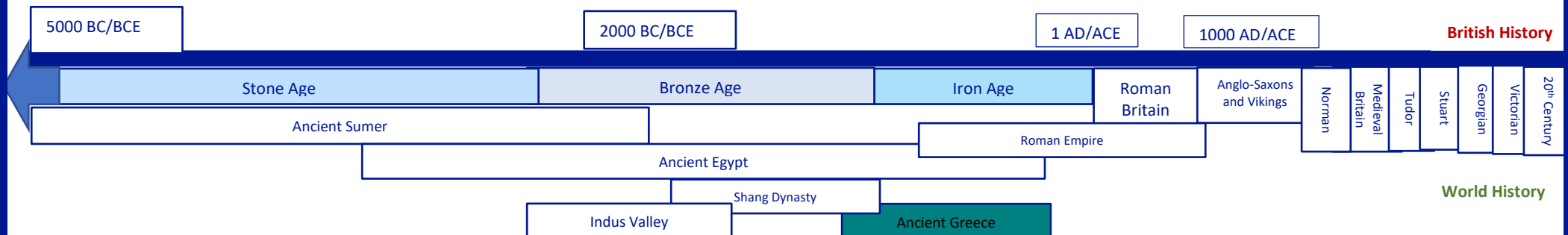
Key Facts:

- The church and religious beliefs had great influence over medicine during the Middle Ages. This led to a continuation of ideas about cause, prevention and treatment of disease and illness.
- From 1700, the church began to lose its influence over disease and illness as there was a focus on scientific explanations. This period saw the growth of cities, which brought threatening diseases such as small pox.
- The twentieth century saw great changes in diagnosis, treatment and prevention as a result of advancing science and technology. After accepting its responsibility for public health, the government adopted a major role in providing medical care.
- Cholera was a disease that causes diarrhoea and sickness leading to death by dehydration and diarrhoea - it mainly affected the poor.
- The Black Death was an outbreak of the bubonic plague. The bacteria were carried in fleas which arrived on rats on merchant ships.
- The National Health Service Act was published in 1946.
- The NHS was founded out of the ideal that good healthcare should be available to all, regardless of wealth.

Key Vocabulary and Glossary:

alchemy	the very old study and philosophy of how to change basic substances (such as metals) into other substances
Cholera	an infection of the intestines caused by bacteria transmitted through water
disease	a change in a living body (as of a person or plant) that prevents it from functioning normally.
Germ theory	he theory that certain diseases are caused by the invasion of the body by microorganisms
miasma	the belief that illness was caused by bad smells
NHS	National Health Service - a publicly funded healthcare system
mortality rate	death rate – the number of deaths in a given time or place or from a given cause
sanitation	the act or process of making or keeping things free from filth, infection, or other dangers to health
surgeon	a doctor who performs surgery
physician	a doctor
vaccination	Immunization (vaccination) is a way to create immunity to (protection from) some diseases.

1123	1348-49	1665	1798	1847	1854	1875	1928	1948
London's first hospital, St Barts. was set up.	Black Death kills 1/3 of the population	The Great Plague in London - 75,000 died	Edward Jenner developed the first vaccine for small pox	James Simpson developed chloroform as an anaesthetic	John Snow's maps proved the source of cholera	The Public Health act: Local councils had to provide sewers, drainage and fresh water as well as medical officers	Fleming discovered penicillin	The NHS begins following the Beveridge report



Summer 2 – Year 6 – The History of Medicine - Homework

CLASSES 6LM, 6KL and 6SB

Homework to be completed and returned by

Friday 11th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our topic this half term is The History of Medicine. We will be using different sources of evidence to find out what people's understanding about health and hygiene was during different periods of history in different parts of the world. We will be looking at how our understanding of health and hygiene has changed over time. This links with our science unit where we are learning about humans, how the circulatory system works and about healthy lifestyles.

History of Medicine – Homework Tasks

Writing:

1. Write a diary as a doctor working in the medieval times
2. Write a letter as a Victorian to persuade the government to do more to clean the city's slum housing
3. Write a fact file about strange medical beliefs from the past

History/Art/Science :

1. Make a detailed anatomical drawing of a human organ (e.g. heart, Lungs)
2. Make a recipe for your own potion or cure!
3. Make a poster about how to stop the spread of viruses and bacteria
4. Create an animation to show how diseases spread

Challenge: Can you design a hospital or medical centre for the future? What would it be like inside? What things would you need to include?

Remember, great homework will lead to lots of extra gems for your house!

Medicine learning links:

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/medicine/353448>

<https://historyforkids.org/medieval-medicine/>

<https://kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/medicine-for-kids/>

<https://www.blackheroesfoundation.org/people/harold-moody/>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/home-work-help/great-plague>

https://kids.kiddle.co/National_Health_Service

Places to Visit:

London medicine tours – Various

<https://www.artandmedicinetourslondon.co.uk/package/medical-bloomsbury-childhood-and-childrens-health/>

Wellcome Collection:

<https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/place/928193-wellcome-collection>

Florence Nightingale Museum

<https://learning.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/resources/marvels-of-medicine-activity-trail-ks2/>

Science Museum:

<https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/museums/galleries>



Reading

Remember to read each day and get an adult to sign your reading record. Don't forget to collect your rewards for reading! your teacher gives you.

Rising Stars Booklets

Please continue to complete the assigned pages in your Maths, Reading and Spelling Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) 'Rising Stars' workbooks.

Please keep the books safe and support your child at home with their books.

This homework is compulsory and is due in every Wednesday

Recommended Reads:

