

Medicine topic 1a knowledge organiser: Key question: What did people believe and how was illness treated in the Middle Ages? (1250-1500)

Lesson 1: Introduction

Key words for this lesson:

Change: Things are different from the way they were before

Continuity: Things stay the same

Prevention: Stopping something from happening

Diagnosis: Saying what is wrong with you

Key dates/ time periods:

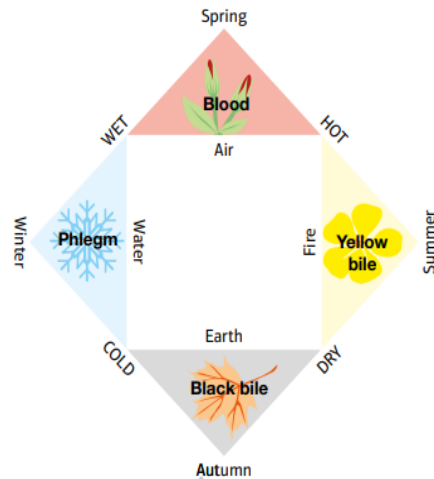
1250-1500: The Middle Ages/ Medieval period

1500-1700: The Medical Renaissance

1700-1900: The Industrial Period/ Enlightenment

1900-present day: Modern medicine.

1914-1918: WW1: Our study is on treatment on the Western Front.



Lesson 2: Supernatural and religious explanations of the cause of disease: 1250-1500

1250-1500

Key words for this lesson:

Supernatural: The belief of something out of this world

Astrology: The planets and stars

Malnutrition: Illness caused by lack of food

Religion was important in the Middle Ages. People believed famine and illness were punishments from God or a test from the devil. For example, people believed leprosy was a punishment from God. People were also superstitious and believed in astrology and the position of the stars and the planets made them ill.

Lesson 3: The theories of the four humours and miasma

Key words for this lesson:

Four Humours: A Greek idea about the liquids in your body making you ill

Theory of Opposites: You used the opposite of your symptoms to make you better

Miasma: the idea that bad air made people ill

The four humours was a Greek idea created by Hippocrates, which said when the blood, black bile, yellow bile and phlegm are out of balance, this makes us ill. These were also linked to the seasons, elements and mood. This was developed by a Roman called Galen. He said you could balance your humours with a treatment the opposite to the symptom. A cold cucumber could be used if you were too hot. Miasma was the belief poisoned air made you ill. Romans camped away from swamps as they believed the smell gave them malaria. Physicians at this time used urine charts to diagnose illness.

Lesson 4: Why in the period 1250-1500 was there no progress in medicine?

Key words for this lesson:

Vivisection: Cutting open the bodies of criminals

Book learning: People assumed you were knowledgeable if you read lots.

Articella: A book that contained the ideas of Galen and Hippocrates

The ideas of Galen and Hippocrates had been used for so long that people were unwilling to move away from them. Galen said the body had a soul so the church, which controlled the reproduction of texts, would not allow ideas to be produced that criticised Galen. The church believed the body was needed whole for the afterlife so banned dissection. People could not learn about the body. It was assumed knowledge could be gained from books by Galen and Hippocrates but these were wrong. People didn't want to go against the church as they feared they would go to hell. Henri de Mondeville wanted to move away from Galen's ideas, however knew people would not respect him if he did and he would lose patients and therefore money.

Lesson 5: Religious and supernatural treatments

Key words for this lesson:

Pilgrimage: A holy journey to a religious place

Incantations: Spells

Astrology: People used star charts and planet positions to suggest treatments.

Religious people would show their dedication to God through fasting and going in pilgrimages. Some religious advice was to do nothing as it was seen as interfering in God's plan. Religious people believed they could perform miracles to heal the sick. People also used astrology, consulting star charts and performing medical procedures when the planets were aligned in a certain way.

