

<p>Renaissance – what is it? An Italian word that translates as ‘re-birth’. The time period that ran from the 1400’s to the 1700’s saw improvements in scientific experiments, trade, exploration, map making, artists, culture and medicine. Key inventions such as the printing press meant that new information and knowledge could be easily and quickly shared. Literacy levels also rose.</p>				
The role of key individuals	Treatments	The Great Plague	Hospitals and surgery	Jenner, inoculation and vaccination
<p>Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564) improved our understanding of anatomy by dissecting humans rather than animals. This gave him more accurate knowledge and allowed him to prove that Galen was wrong e.g. the human breastbone has 3 parts, not 7 like an ape. Vesalius worked with artists to ensure his findings were accurately drawn and recorded. These drawings were released in a book <i>De Humani Corporis Fabrica in 1543</i>. This helped people to question ancient texts. However his work did not influence treatments greatly as doctors still did not know about effective causes or treatments</p>	<p>Treatments evolved and improved but knowledge was limited by a lack of understanding of germs. New ideas focused on specific parts of medicine e.g. Robert Burton studied mental illness and Jane Sharp women-led midwifery.</p>	<p>Beliefs about causes - Punishment from God for sin - Movement of planets - Poisonous air Real cause was again the fleas that live on rats that were attracted to the poor public health conditions on towns and cities.</p>	<p>Hospitals were funded by rich people, donations or subscriptions. In 1741 Thomas Coram raised money to open the Foundling Hospital in London. It supported and educated vulnerable children until 15. St Luke’s in London became the second largest public hospital in 1751, after Bethlem, for the mentally ill. Maternity hospitals were also opened in Middlesex in 1747. By 1800, London’s hospitals alone were treating 20,000 patients a year.</p>	<p>In the 1700’s, inoculation was used to treat small pox. This involved giving a low dose of smallpox to make a person immune. It was introduced to England in 1721 by Lady Montagu. Edward Jenner introduced vaccination. He injected James Phipps with pus from cowpox sores. This gave Phipps immunity from smallpox. Jenner didn’t understand why this process worked but it was made compulsory by the government.</p>
<p>Ambroise Pare (1510-1590) was a battlefield surgeon performing surgery on wounded soldiers. In battle, he ran out of boiling oil which was used for treating gunshot wounds. Paré made an old Roman ointment of roses, turpentine and egg yolk which worked. Paré developed ligatures to tie wounds instead of using a cauterising iron which was more successful. He spread his ideas through his 1575 book <i>Les Oeuvres</i>, which became famous in Europe. His impact in Britain was limited – only the rich could afford to see a doctor and his ideas were met with scepticism.</p>	<p>Explorers on voyages of discovery brought back new natural medicines – opium from Turkey was used as an anaesthetic, the bark of the Cinchona tree from South America helped to treat malaria, and tobacco from North America was wrongly said to cure many conditions.</p>	<p>Attempted treatments - Old ideas such as praying for forgiveness and miasma (bad air) were still believed/ followed - Some new ideas were more effective e.g. plague doctors wore special clothing covering their whole body to stop the spread of disease and watchmen prevented people entering/leaving infected houses. - There was a more scientific approach where people observed the death rates were higher in dirtier places. Bodies were buried in mass graves and people were ordered to sweep the streets outside their houses. Large gatherings and trade were limited</p>	<p>Hospitals trained doctors of the future (still mainly theory, little practise, different wards treated different diseases, and doctors liked to treat patients for free at hospitals at it improved their reputation for private patients. John Hunter improved surgery by carrying out dissections, and encouraging others to trust the body’s natural healing process. However he was unpopular for paying grave robbers!</p>	<p>Despite being much safer than inoculation, vaccination was opposed. Some doctors were worried it would lose them money, many thought it wrong to inject cowpox into humans, some saw this as going against God’s will. The Anti-Compulsory Vaccination League was set up in 1866 arguing parents should decide for their children.</p>
<p>William Harvey (1578-1657) discovers the circulation of the blood, disproving Galen’s ideas. Identifies the difference between arteries and veins, and that the heart pumps blood continuously. This challenged Galen who taught the liver produced blood. To spread his ideas he writes <i>On the Motion of the Heart, 1628</i>. However, bleeding operations still continue after Harvey as people are unsure of what else to do. His ideas were rejected by conservatives who still supported by Galen. It would take 60 years before people accepted his work when they too discovered capillaries.</p>	<p>Poorer people still struggled to afford to see a trained doctor. Instead they relied on barber surgeons, apothecaries (no training, sold potions), wise women and quacks. These were people who falsely claimed to have medical qualifications. They travelled Britain making profits from false treatments. Some did gain some knowledge of herbs and medicines but the standard of care was generally poor.</p>			

