

History: How Revolutionary was the Renaissance?

Year 9 Term 2



Timeline

1441	The Printing Press is Invented allowing ideas to spread much more quickly than before it's invention.
1503	Leonardo Da Vinci, an Italian polymath, creates the Mona Lisa painting. His work highlights the change in artwork brought about during the Renaissance.
1543	Vesalius publishes the anatomy textbook <i>The Fabric of the Human Body</i> .
1628	William Harvey proves the circulation of blood.
1665	The arrival of the Great Plague to London which killed approximately 100 000 people.
1724	Guy's Hospital founded in London.
1798	Edward Jenner develops the smallpox vaccination.

Key Individuals

Andreas Vesalius	Vesalius carried out work on the human anatomy. He disproved previous work of Galen by carrying out dissections. He published the <i>Fabric of the Human Body</i> in 1543.
Ambroise Pare	During the Battle of Milan in 1536, Pare developed his surgical techniques. He developed a solution to heal wounds of egg white, turpentine and rose oil. He published <i>Works on Surgery</i> in 1575.
William Harvey	Harvey carried out investigations into blood circulation. He theorised that blood must move in a constant circle, driven by the hearts power. Many were opposed to Harvey's work.
John Hunter	Hunter became an army surgeon in 1760 and appointed surgeon to King Charles III in 1776. He was an early promoter of careful observation but also built on ideas on disease, infections and cancer due to his dissections. He collected specimens and also trained Edward Jenner.
Edward Jenner	Jenner was trained by John Hunter who encouraged him to conduct experiments and test theories. His most important test was based on the folk tale that cowpox could protect a person against smallpox. In 1798, Jenner published a book on vaccinations .

Key Words

Renaissance	'Rebirth' - the revival of European art and literature.
Revolutionary	A dramatic or significant change.
Observation	The process of close monitoring of something/ someone.
Anatomy	Science of understanding the structure and internal organs of the body.
Cauterisation	The process of using a heated iron to stop the bleeding and seal a wound.
Ligatures	Used to tie veins and arteries during surgery. In the Renaissance period they often introduced infection into the body.
Circulation	The movement of blood around the body.
Quacks	Person pretending to have medical ability or fake cures; unqualified, often useless doctor.
Great Plague	A highly contagious disease that spread throughout England in 1665. A person could have the bubonic, pneumonic or septicaemic plague.
Quarantine	A period of isolation to prevent the spread of disease.
Inoculation	Using weakened but live germs to try and build up resistance to the stronger form of disease.
Vaccination	Using the dead germs of a disease or one similar to build up resistance in the body. Comes from the Latin word ' vacca ' meaning cow.
Smallpox	A contagious and deadly virus resulting in red spots.
Exploration	A time of increased travel by explorers and merchants who discovered new places such as the Americas.
New World	The phrase given by European explorers to the Americas- North and South America and the Caribbean.

Key Questions

What was the Renaissance?

- The Renaissance is a term that describes a period in history that flourished in the late 15th century. The phrase Renaissance means 'rebirth' in Italian.
- It was a time where people questioned accepted truths, searched for new evidence and experimented with new ideas.
- For centuries, people had accepted that the Church (Catholic) had all the answers to their questions. With more people becoming educated, they wanted to find out answers for themselves rather than relying on the word of the church.

What was the Great Plague?

- The Great Plague was a contagious disease that hit England in 1665. over the course of a year it caused 100 000 deaths in London alone.
- Many people still believed that the plague was a punishment from God for their sins; others believed in the movement of the planets; others believed in 'poisonous' air or miasma.
- Despite advancements in medicine, Doctors still had no cure for the Plague . There were some advancement in trying to link dirt to disease as people realised most deaths occurred in the poorest parts of London.
- Many plague victims were put into quarantine to stop the spread.

How did Hospitals change and advance during this time?

- Modern hospitals began in the late 1700s. Individual wards were given over to different diseases, doctors received specific training and training doctors were given work experience on the wards.
- Despite advancements, a lot of the work was still based on the Four Humour Theory. The public dispensary of Edinburgh (1776) started to give medication away for free to the poor. By 1800, London's hospitals alone had 20,000 patients compared to 470 in the whole of England in 1400.

What was the importance of science, technology and exploration?

- The introduction of the printing press helped ordinary people collect books on herbal remedies.
- Explorers on voyages of discovery brought back new treatments. Opium from Turkey was used as an anaesthetic, Lemons and limes were used to treat scurvy from 1617. Tobacco from North America was even used to try and cure toothache and the plague but this was unsuccessful.



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