

HISTORY – YEAR 10 – THE MEDICAL RENAISSANCE IN ENGLAND, C.1500-1700



The de Ferrers Trust

A		KEY TERMS
1	Secular	Not religious or in any way connected with spiritual beliefs.
2	Printing press	A machine for printing text or pictures, a much faster way to create books than in previous time periods.
3	Dysentery	A stomach bug which causes severe diarrhoea.
4	The Dissolution of the Monasteries	In 1533, Henry VIII split from the Roman Catholic Church and created the Church of England. He disbanded many religious institutions and confiscated their land.
5	Pest House, plague house or poxhouse	A type of hospital which was created to care for contagious patients only. People would go to a pest house rather than staying at home and infecting their families.
6	Miasma	The belief that disease is transmitted through bad smells or bad air.
7	Quack doctor	Somebody who did not have any medical qualifications but sold their services as a doctor or apothecary.
8	Iatrochemistry or medical chemistry	The science of looking for chemical cures for illness rather than using herbs and spices.
9	Plague doctor	A doctor who would diagnose the plague and try to prevent the spread of the disease.
10	Transference	The idea that illness or disease could be transferred from a person to something else e.g. a sheep.
11	Pomander	A ball containing perfumed substances.
12	Epidemic	A widespread outbreak of disease which spreads quickly.
13	The New World	North and South America. Europeans were only aware of its existence from 1492.
14	Syphilis	A common sexually transmitted disease, it spread across Europe rapidly from the late fifteenth century.
15	Anatomy	The branch of science concerned with the bodily structure of humans.

B		KEY DATES
1	1440 to 1500	Creation and mass production of the printing press.
2	1536	The Dissolution of the Monasteries.
3	1543	Vesalius produced 'On the Fabric of the Human Body', in which he proved Galen wrong. He found over 300 mistakes in his work.
4	1628	William Harvey published his discovery that blood circulated around the body.
5	1660	The Royal Society was founded.
6	1665	Outbreak of The Great Plague.
7	1676	Thomas Sydenham published 'Observations Medicae', which theorised illness was caused by external factors rather than the Four Humours.
8	1683	Antony van Leeuwenhoek created a more powerful microscope.

C		KEY INDIVIDUALS
1	Andreas Vesalius	Dissected the bodies of dead criminals to understand human anatomy, used artists to draw detailed sketches of these and created his book 'On the Fabric of the Human Body'
2	William Harvey	Discovered that the heart pumps blood around the body and that bloody circulates around the body.
3	Thomas Sydenham	London doctor who observed patients' symptoms rather than diagnosing using old methods like the Four Humours.
4	Johannes Gutenberg	Created the printing press in around 1440.
5	The Royal Society	A group of scientists who would experiment and share ideas. Funded by King Charles II.
6	Antony van Leeuwenhoek	A Dutch scientist who created more powerful microscopes.