

Science and Medicine in the Nineteenth Century

Resources

Web Sections:

- T7 Miasma to Antisepsis
- T17 Weird Science

Transactions:

- D10 'On the measurement of heads.'
- D13 'Account of an attempt to form a settlement on the mosquito shore.'
- D14 'Medical Statistics of Lower Canada.'

Artefacts and Images

- LHSQ Artefacts:
 - Phrenology Head
 - Leech Jar

Web-links

- http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/qc/grosseile/index_e.asp

Lesson Plan

Objective

Examine the ideas that under-pinned nineteenth century notions of medicine.

1. Setting the Scene

- **Resources:**

- LHSQ artefact: Phrenology head
- LHSQ artefact: leech jar

- **Questions to consider:**

- What would the following have been used for in the nineteenth century:
 1. a leech jar
 2. a phrenology head
- To check your answers, visit the museum, find the artefacts and ask Ms. Beardsley.
- What information do you need to know about an artefact before it can be of use to a historian?

2. Exploring the Theme

- **Resources:**

- T7 Miasma to Antisepsis

- **Questions to Consider:**

- Describe what you think it was like visiting the doctor at the start of the nineteenth century.
- Describe what you think it was like visiting the doctor at the end of the nineteenth century.
- How did doctors at the start of the nineteenth century believe disease was spread?
- What is meant by the term *miasma*?
- Visit the museum and check your answer.
- What were the deadliest diseases in nineteenth century Quebec?
- Describe the stone cross you can see in the museum. Where do you think it is from?

- What is the link between the diseases and the cross?
- To check your answers and find out about the major nineteenth century epidemics visit http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/qc/grosseile/index_e.asp

3. **Going Deeper**

- **Resources:**

- *Transactions*

- **Questions to Consider:**

- Choose one of the following articles from the LHSQ *Transactions*:
 - i. D10 ‘On the measurement of heads.’
 - ii. D13 ‘Account of an attempt to form a settlement on the mosquito shore.’
 - iii. D14 ‘Medical Statistics of Lower Canada.’
- Identify the idea of medicine in each and find evidence for this underlying belief in the text.

4. **Prepare a Presentation/Write a report**

- **Guide:**

- Conduct phrenology-style examination of class members!
- Research the link between the notions of medicine and government policy. For example, how did the belief in miasma influence the development of public health policy in the early nineteenth century.

Science and Medicine in the 19th Century

Student's Worksheet

Setting the scene:

1. What would the following have been used for in the nineteenth century:

i. a leech jar

ii. a phrenology head

2. To check your answers, visit the museum, find the artefacts and ask Ms. Beardsley.

3. What information do you need to know about an artefact before it can be of use to a historian?

Exploring the Theme:

1. Describe what you think it was like visiting the doctor at the start of the nineteenth century.

2. Describe what you think it was like visiting the doctor at the end of the nineteenth century.

3. How did doctors at the start of the nineteenth century believe disease was spread?

4. What is meant by the term *miasma*?

5. Visit the museum and check you answer.

6. What were the deadliest diseases in nineteenth century Quebec?

7. Describe the stone cross you can see in the museum. Where do you think it is from?

8. What is the link between the diseases and the cross?

9. To check your answers and find out about the major nineteenth century epidemics visit

http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/qc/grosseile/index_e.asp

