

In the 19th century, Vietnamese had a different concept of what it meant to be clean.

They often didn't have running refrigerators. They didn't have golden toilets. When you don't have easy running water, the kind of cleanliness you can attain is great.

So, people would wash in a car. They might use some soap that baby had made with some lye, but they did not have an easy time of it—keeping their bodies or their homes clean. And they certainly didn't have shelves full of products designed to help them stay hygienically comfortable.

Basically, life for many people was just fine. But starting around the 1820s, people start realizing that living in filth wasn't so bad for their health.

Infectious diseases began to go up in number in the United States in the 1800s, particularly in large fields.

Then scientific evidence started showing that microscopic organisms, or germs, often found in dirty homes and cities were the cause of accidents.

This acceptance of the germ theory of disease was quick to come because it depended on a belief that something you couldn't see was making you sick. Oddly enough, enthusiasm for the germ theory did not come from the medical clubs, but from advertisers of products. The commodification of the germ theory of disease kind of came in two baskets. The first phase was in the 1880s and into the 1890s around neckties.

Some of the early products that were sold to protect people from those germs included coffee filters and plumbing innovations. Some really old ones, too.

Phase two follows research that shows the spread of germs through personal contact: coughing, spitting, laughing. They realize that that person-to-person contact is significant in the spread of very funny diseases.

answers

In the 19th century, (1)Americans had a different concept of what it meant to be clean. They often didn't have running (2)water. They didn't have (3)flush toilets. When you don't have easy running water, the kind of cleanliness you can attain is (4)limited.

So, people would wash in a (5)basin. They might use some soap that (6)grandma had made with some lye, but they did not have an easy time of it—keeping their bodies or their homes clean. And they certainly didn't have shelves full of products designed to help them stay hygienically (6)pure.

Basically, life for many people was just (7)dirty. But starting around the 1820s, people start realizing that living in filth wasn't so (8)good for their health.

Infectious diseases began to go up in number in the United States in the 1800s, particularly in large (9)cities.

Then scientific evidence started showing that microscopic organisms, or germs, often found in dirty homes and cities were the cause of (10)disease.

This acceptance of the germ theory of disease was (11)slow to come because it depended on a belief that something you couldn't see was making you sick. Oddly enough, enthusiasm for the germ theory did not come from the medical (12)profession, but from advertisers of products. The commodification of the germ theory of disease kind of came in two (13)waves. The first phase was in the 1880s and into the 1890s around (14)toilets.

Some of the early products that were sold to protect people from those germs included (15)water filters and plumbing innovations. Some really (16)fancy ones, too.

Phase two follows research that shows the spread of germs through personal contact: coughing, spitting, (16)sneezing. They realize that that person-to-person contact is significant in the spread of very (17)deadly diseases.

Key Vocabulary

In the 19th century, Americans had a different concept of what it meant to be clean.

They often didn't have running water. They didn't have flush toilets. When you don't have easy running water, the kind of cleanliness you can attain is limited.

So, people would wash in a basin. They might use some soap that grandma had made with some lye, but they did not have an easy time of it—keeping their bodies or their homes clean. And they certainly didn't have shelves full of products designed to help them stay hygienically pure.

Basically, life for many people was just dirty. But starting around the 1820s, people start realizing that living in filth wasn't so good for their health.

Infectious diseases began to go up in number in the United States in the 1800s, particularly in large cities.

Then scientific evidence started showing that microscopic organisms, or germs, often found in dirty homes and cities were the cause of disease.

This acceptance of the germ theory of disease was slow to come because it depended on a belief that something you couldn't see was making you sick. Oddly enough, enthusiasm for the germ theory did not come from the medical profession, but from advertisers of products. The commodification of the germ theory of disease kind of came in two waves. The first phase was in the 1880s and into the 1890s around toilets. Some of the early products that were sold to protect people from those germs included water filters and plumbing innovations. Some really fancy ones, too.

Phase two follows research that shows the spread of germs through personal contact: coughing, spitting, sneezing. They realize that that person-to-person contact is significant in the spread of very deadly diseases.