

MEDIEVAL MEDICINE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

KEY PEOPLE AND EVENTS					KEY WORDS	
Pre Medieval	Hippocrates [Greek] – theory of the Four Humours. The human body contains phlegm, blood, yellow bile and black bile. Pain and illness occurs when these four substances are out of balance. Looked at the body as a whole. Believed in observing patients. Wrote many textbooks				APOTHECARY	Sold medicines, herbs and spices from a shop in a town. Probably an apprentice first. Sold ‘simples’ – medicines with one herb or plant and ‘compounds’ – medicines with a combination of ingredients
	Galen [based in Rome] – took Hippocrates ideas further. Used dissection of animals to try and understand the human body. Used the theory of the Four Humours. Fitted in with Christian views and so the Church supported his ideas					
Medieval	Importance of Islamic/Arab medicine – key medics and writers like Avicenna, Rhazes and Avicenna. Translated books from Greek and Roman. Described new diseases like smallpox. Hospitals with medical libraries in most towns. Training for doctors. Importance of cleanliness				BARBER SURGEON	Carried out minor operations, set broken bones and pulled teeth. Were apprentices first and then fully qualified. Mainly in towns and cities. Some travelled with local fairs into the countryside
	Religion played a huge part in people’s lives so it’s not surprising that people thought God played a crucial role in disease. If someone was living a sinful life, then God might send them illness as a punishment. God also gave us plants and herbs to help treat disease. The Church also played a huge role in developing hospitals, many of which were attached to monasteries [although some wouldn’t treat very sick people or women]. The Church wouldn’t allow dissection of human bodies, which limited medical progress, and those that supported dissection were arrested and imprisoned. Monasteries understood a little about the dangers of dirt and filth – they used cleaner water for drinking, washing and cooking					
	Some people linked bad smells and bad air with spreading disease				BLEEDING	Using cups or leeches to remove blood and restore balance
	Towns were unhealthy because so many people lived so close together. There were few regulations about building or waste disposal. Clean water was in short supply. Water was often taken from rivers and streams that were contaminated with waste. There was no rubbish collection or disposal. There were no sewers, so waste was chucked into the street and left to rot.					
	Mystery, magic and the supernatural were also important – sudden illnesses were often blamed on this				CAUTERISING	Burning the skin or flesh of a wound with a heated instrument or substance to stop bleeding or prevent infection
	John Arderne – trained as a surgeon. Famous for the survival rate of his patients after operations. Worked as a surgeon on the battlefield which helped him develop his skills – this shows how war was a factor in helping the development of medicine. Developed pain killing ointments. Wrote books. Questioned the accuracy of Hippocrates and Galen					
The Black Death – people thought it was caused by bad smells, Four Humours imbalanced, invisible fumes, an angry God, the position of the planets, Jews. Some of the cures they considered were praying, eating less, carrying sweet smelling herbs, attending Church more				EPIDEMIC	Sudden and widespread occurrence of a contagious disease	
				URINE	Looked at, smelt and sometimes tasted by doctors to decide what was wrong with a patient	
				WISE WOMAN	Had ideas and skills passed down from ancestors. Reasonably priced. Often acted as midwives	
				ZODIAC CHART	They told a doctor which parts of the body were linked to each astrological sign, which then helped identify a possible cure	
War	Superstition and religion	Chance	Government	Science and technology	Communication	Role of the individual

