



WHEN THE BORDER VANISHES

Call the Doctor!

During an epidemic of yellow fever in New Orleans in 1843, one doctor developed a treatment for yellow fever that could be administered by those in the household who were still well.

This is a lesson on working with primary documents.

Standard:

- II. Time, Continuity, and Change
- III. People, Places, and Environment
- V. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- VIII. Science, Technology, and Society

Grade Level: 7–12

Objectives:

The student will:

- Access background knowledge
- Use literacy strategies to discover meanings of new vocabulary
- Become familiar with 19th century phraseology
- Use primary documents
- Make inferences
- Draw conclusions
- Compare and contrast treatments between centuries
- Write a reflection on what they have learned

Time:

2–3 class periods

Materials:

Note: Teachers should use one of the included graphic organizers that best fits their purposes for individual student groupings.

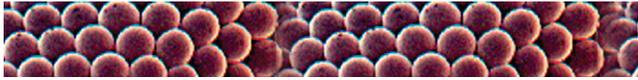
1. Copy of the transcription of *Dr. Holt's Prescription for the Treatment of Yellow Fever* (primary document) located in the toolkit
2. Graphic organizers: *Organizing for Effort*, *Vocabulary Worksheet*, and *Then and Now*
3. Internet access for research

Procedures:

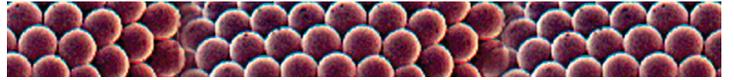
Note: This lesson may be carried out with students organized in groups, pairs, or on an individual basis.

Give students the transcript of *Dr. Holt's Prescription for the Treatment of Yellow Fever* and the graphic organizers.

- Students should read through the document, noting unfamiliar vocabulary and phrases on *Graphic Organizer: Organizing for Effort*.
- When the reading is completed, direct students to research their lists.
- Students should report their findings, beginning with vocabulary and moving on to phrases, symptoms, and treatment on their Vocabulary Work Sheet.
- Students should then research the treatment of yellow fever today, using the *Graphic Organizer: Then and Now*.
- Students should be able to write a reflection piece on this lesson.



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Extension Activities:

- 1.** Students will create a Day-by-Day chart on poster board.
- 2.** Taking on the persona of a caregiver, students will create a day-by-day diary. Be sure to include the chores of the time period and the care of the patient.
- 3.** Taking on the persona of the patient, students will create a memoir of a patient who had contracted yellow fever from the onset of symptoms to recovery, using Dr. Holt's treatment. ■