

## Doctors and Cures: Treatments of Yellow Fever

**GATHERING THE INFO:** As you watch the webisode, complete this sheet. You may need to pause the webisode and/or watch it more than once to get all of the information.

1. How did most people receive their health care? Why were people skeptical of doctors?

**They got their health care from their families. Doctors profited off of human misery.**

2. Begin this at the 2-minute mark in the webisode: List the suggested cures for yellow fever in the appropriate column. Decide whether the cure fits with the more gentle approach favored by doctors William Currie and Jean Deveze or with the "heroic" efforts promoted by Benjamin Rush.

Currie/Deveze	Rush
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hydration</li><li>• Rest</li><li>• Lying in a dark room</li><li>• Wine</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mercurial agents (like castor oil) to purge bowels</li><li>• Wrap patient in blankets to make them sweat</li><li>• Bloodletting</li><li>• Used a syringe in rectum or urethra to produce diarrhea</li></ul>

3. What was the theory of humors? How did it justify Rush's approach to curing yellow fever?

**The body is made up of a system of fluids that need to be kept in balance. If someone is ill, they need to get rid of the bad humors. Rush's methods got fluids out of the body in various ways.**

4. According to the webisode, gunfire was used in an unsuccessful attempt to end the yellow fever epidemic. What actually did end the spread of the disease?

**The change of seasons that got rid of mosquitoes.**

**EXPLORING PRIMARY SOURCES:**

1. *Pause at 1 minute, 11 seconds. The man standing in the center is saying to the African American woman, "Don't tell me you outlandish hussey of toast and toddy. I say it's the black vomit". (Note that "black vomit" was a symptom of yellow fever.) What seems to be actually wrong with the patient and who is being made fun of in this cartoon?*

**The patient is drunk; the doctor is the object of ridicule in this cartoon.**

2. *What are the terms for the objects shown at 2 minutes, 50 seconds and how were they used?*

**A bleeding bowl and a spring lancet; they were used for bloodletting. The lancet would make the cut and the blood would drain into the bowl.**

3. *What is shown at 3 minutes, 27 seconds and how was it used?*

**A syringe that would be loaded with harsh chemicals and put in the rectum or urethra to induce diarrhea.**

4. *Using a dictionary if needed, explain what the title shown at 5 minutes, 32 seconds indicates about the content of the publication.*

**The title implies that this publication will prove that Dr. Benjamin Rush was wrong about the cause of the yellow fever epidemic. It will show that Philadelphia's lack of cleanliness was not the cause.**

**ANALYZING THE INFO:** *What are the three most significant differences between how medicine was practiced in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and how it is practiced today?*

**Answers will vary**

