



Healing Through The Arts®

Where those who are healing find strength,
hope and inspiration through the arts.

Social Studies, Lesson 3 – *Early American Healing and Medicine*

Lesson goal – To identify early American medical practices and the differences between modern and early medicine

Target students – History students grade 8 and higher

Learning Objective – Students will discover the healing practices of different groups of early Americans and evaluate their effectiveness

Outcome – Students will discuss and debate the limitations at the time and suggest possible solutions

Standards – The following educational standards are addressed in this lesson:

- PA History 8.1.9 A – D
- PA History 8.1.12 A – D
- PA History 8.2.9 A, B
- PA History 8.2.12 A, B
- PA History 8.3.9 A, B
- PA History 8.3.12 A, B
- CC RH 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9
- WHST 1, 4, 8, 9

Materials / Resources – The following resources will be required for this lesson:

- Internet access

Description of Lesson (one to two 90 - minute blocks or two to four 45 - minute classes)

1. Students can work in groups, or be lead in discussion by the instructor.
2. Students should discuss or identify a list of the leading illnesses of the time.
3. Students should then discuss or identify some of the cures used to treat these illnesses.
4. Using the resources on the Web of Healing website, students can choose one of the group of the 18th century to research. Each group should have the following prepared for them:

- Introduction
 - Overview
 - Commentary on primary and secondary sources that correspond to their group
 - An exercise
5. Students should then be able to create an essay, oral, or multi-media presentation to place their choice of healers in the social hierarchy of early American history.

Resources:

- Web of Healing. Website. http://www.pachs.net/web_of_healing/intro.html
- Every Man His Own Doctor. Website. <http://www.librarycompany.org/doctor/everyman.html>
- Plagues and Diseases of the 18th and 19th Centuries. Website. <http://genealogical-gleanings.com/Plagues.htm>