



## **Fever 1793: Historical Background Research Activity**

*Working in groups of three, research these essential questions. Follow the directions for each section, reading the primary, secondary and online sources as indicated. Look up any vocabulary words as directed. Refer to the book as suggested. Discuss with your group and take notes in the space provided.*

### **ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:**

*Use the resources provided to answer these essential questions in pages 2-5 in your packet. Be thorough and write neatly as you will include information from your notes in both an essay and a comic. Remember, good writing starts with good research!*

**I. What is an epidemic? How can an epidemic impact society? families? individuals? What has been the impact of epidemic diseases throughout history?**

**II. What is *Yellow Fever*? What are its effects? How is transmitted? What diseases it is similar to?**

**III. How can Yellow Fever and diseases like it be *prevented*? How can it be *treated*? How has treatment and prevention improved through history?**

**I. What is an EPIDEMIC?**

# How do epidemics impact *society* and *social order*?

## Vocabulary: EPIDEMIC

### Historical examples of outbreaks of epidemics

#### RESOURCES:

10 Worst Outbreaks in History (Healthline) <http://www.healthline.com/health/worst-disease-outbreaks-history#Overview1>

10 Deadliest Epidemics in History (Healthline) <http://www.healthcarebusinesstech.com/the-10-deadliest-epidemics-in-history/>

### **Most devastating epidemics worldwide:**

### **Outbreaks in the Americas:**

### What was the impact of epidemic/pandemic outbreaks of disease on Native Americans? Soldiers? Westward Settlers?

Disease and Westward Expansion (Encyclopedia.com) <http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-2536601290.html>

Yellow Fever and the Spanish-American War <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/issue/health/>

History of Vaccines: U.S. Military and Vaccine History <http://www.historyofvaccines.org/content/articles/us-military-and-vaccine-history>

The U.S. Military and the Influenza Pandemic of 1918–1919 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2862337/>

Guns, Germs and Steel: The Story of Smallpox and other Deadly Eurasian germs  
<http://www.pbs.org/gunsgermsteel/variables/smallpox.html>

**In the book, what was the impact of the Yellow Fever epidemic? For example, how did it impact.... families? Migration? Crime? the economy? access to government and social services?** *Discuss these or other examples from the book:*

*chapter 15: Matilda hears description of social disorder in Philadelphia*

*chapter 16: Matilda describes dead bodies in the streets of Philadelphia*

*chapter 19: description of thieves and looting*

*chapter 24: description of price gouging of supplies*

*chapter 28: Washington leads people back to the city*

### **What was the Yellow Fever outbreak of 1793?**

The Yellow Fever Epidemic In Philadelphia, 1793 (Harvard) <http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/contagion/yellowfever.html>

Yellow Fever Attacks Philadelphia (Eyewitness To History) <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/yellowfever.htm>

The Great Fever (PBS The American Experience)

[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/fever/peopleevents/e\\_philadelphia.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/fever/peopleevents/e_philadelphia.html)

Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 (Wikipedia) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow\\_fever\\_epidemic\\_of\\_1793](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow_fever_epidemic_of_1793)

History of Yellow Fever (Wikipedia) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_yellow\\_fever](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_yellow_fever)

What caused it?

What was its impact?

What ended it?

Did Philadelphia ever have another Yellow Fever outbreak?

What other American cities had Yellow Fever outbreaks in the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> centuries?

## II. What is Yellow Fever?

### What are its effects? How is transmitted? What makes it spread?

1.) What is yellow fever?

Resources: <http://www.cdc.gov/yellowfever/>, <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/yellow-fever/basics/definition/con-20032263>

2.) Explain how the disease is transmitted. Resource: [http://www.medicinenet.com/yellow\\_fever/article.htm](http://www.medicinenet.com/yellow_fever/article.htm)

3.) Name & describe the symptoms of the disease.

Resource: <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/yellow-fever/basics/definition/con-20032263>

4.) Which human body systems did yellow fever have an effect on? For each system mentioned explain what happens to that body system.

Resources: <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/yellow-fever/basics/definition/con-20032263>,  
<http://www.cdc.gov/yellowfever/>

5.) Explain why not everyone became infected with the disease.

Resource: <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/yellow-fever-breaks-out-in-philadelphia>

6.) Compare & Contrast treatments used in **Fever 1793** and today.

Resources: <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/yellow-fever/basics/definition/con-20032263>,  
<http://www.cdc.gov/yellowfever/>,  
[http://www.medicinenet.com/yellow\\_fever/article.htm](http://www.medicinenet.com/yellow_fever/article.htm), <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/yellow-fever-breaks-out-in-philadelphia>

### **III. How can Yellow Fever and diseases like it be treated? How can they be prevented? How has treatment and prevention advanced through history?**

Medicine in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century (Encyclopedia Britannica) <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/372460/history-of-medicine/35661/Medicine-in-the-18th-century>  
Surgeons and Butchers (U.S.History.com ) <http://www.ushistory.org/brandywine/special/art06.htm>

#### **How did 18th century medicine treat this kind of disease?**

What examples of treatment did the book give? Review these scenes/descriptions from the book and discuss any other examples you can recall.

*chapter 10: bloodletting*

*chapter 14: French hospital*

*chapter 22: African Americans people caring for fever victims/Ben Rush's plan*

*chapter 23-25 the sick house/hospital*

#### **What helps stop the spread of disease?**

Vocabulary: Define QUARANTINE

Define INNOCULATION

#### **Where in the story did people demonstrate an attempt to contain (limit the spread of) the outbreak?**

Review these examples from the book and discuss any others:

*chapter 11- roadblock/grandfather incident*

*chapter 26: the effect of the frost on the fever*

#### **How are Yellow fever and diseases like it treated today? How has medicine and treatment of disease advanced since 1793?**

Yellow Fever (Healthday) [http://consumer.healthday.com/encyclopedia/diseases-and-conditions-15/misc-diseases-and-conditions-news-203/yellow-fever-648385.html?lexp=true&utm\\_expid=38353063-4.pIV1hUrQR8K\\_MJ1\\_OqjLag.1&utm\\_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F](http://consumer.healthday.com/encyclopedia/diseases-and-conditions-15/misc-diseases-and-conditions-news-203/yellow-fever-648385.html?lexp=true&utm_expid=38353063-4.pIV1hUrQR8K_MJ1_OqjLag.1&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F)

Yellow Fever treatment (American Experience) [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/fever/sfeature/fever\\_treatment.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/fever/sfeature/fever_treatment.html)