

Explain pick-up

The determinants of medieval medicine

This revision activity works best if you do it with a friend, and talk about it as you do it.

The four cards below describe the four aspects of medieval medicine. Cut them out and place them face up on a table.

Ideas about the causes of disease	Treatments
Anatomy & Surgery	Public Health

The cards below detail eighteen 'key influences' on the nature of medieval life. Cut them out, shuffle and place them face down on the table.

In turn, players pick up a card, allocate it to one of the four aspects of medicine, and suggest ways that it affected that aspect of medicine.

The other players help, expand and challenge those ideas.

ECONOMY: England was overwhelmingly a place of small rural villages.	ECONOMY: Towns and trade began to develop, 1200-1300.
ECONOMY: The 14 th century was a time of famines and plagues of the 14th century.	ECONOMY: After 1400, the feudal system and serfdom were abandoned.
ECONOMY: An international woollen industry and trade developed in the 15 th century.	GOVERNMENT: From 1215, England had a relatively stable monarchy and a system of law courts.
WAR: Medieval English society was permanently involved in wars and conflict.	COMMUNICATION: Communication was limited by travel speed and the hazards of ships
COMMUNICATION: Books and letters were copied by hand, so ideas and inventions spread slowly ... or not at all.	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: There was no concept of science, and knowledge was based on existing ideas, particularly those of Aristotle.
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: Medieval technology was practical and inventive.	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: Universities were invented in the later Middle Ages.
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: Hospitals were invented in the later Middle Ages.	ATTITUDES – FAITH: Faith (Christianity) encouraged giving and sharing.
ATTITUDES – FAITH: Churches and monasteries were regarded as places of safety, with their sanctity highly valued.	ATTITUDES – FAITH: Conflict between Christianity and Islam restricted the sharing of idea.
ATTITUDES – PATRIARCHY: Medieval society was patriarchal, with women often excluded from education and public roles.	ATTITUDES – AUTHORITY: Authority, particularly the Church and ancient teaching, was trusted over personal experience and observation.