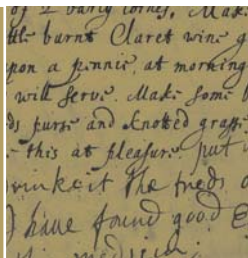


# WELLCOME LIBRARY LEARNING RESOURCE



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## GCSE HISTORY MEDICINE THROUGH TIME TEACHERS' NOTES

### Why were medical quacks successful?

The existence of 'quacks' poses a problem for historians of medicine: they obviously had some success – or they would rapidly have gone out of business – yet what they offered had no perceptible medical benefit. What does this tell us about attitudes of the time? What does it tell us about medical knowledge at the time?

Two points are worth making before students attempt the simple tasks: first, quacks were at their peak in the 18th century. This was after the Scientific Revolution, when medicine was by no means backward. Why?

Secondly, quacks are still around today. Why?

#### WEBSITES

**The Museum of Questionable Medical Devices:**  
[www.mtn.org/~quack](http://www.mtn.org/~quack)

#### GENERAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE LINKS

**History of Medicine information by period:**  
[www.historylearningsite.co.uk/history\\_of\\_medicine.htm](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/history_of_medicine.htm)

**Images:**  
[http://www.wihm.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/gw\\_44\\_3/chameleon?skin.nlm](http://www.wihm.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/gw_44_3/chameleon?skin.nlm)

<http://medphoto.wellcome.ac.uk>

**Gateway site:**  
<http://medhist.ac.uk>

**Timeline:**  
[www.schoolscience.co.uk/content/4/biology/abpi/history/timeline.html](http://www.schoolscience.co.uk/content/4/biology/abpi/history/timeline.html)

[www.schoolshistory.org.uk/medicine.htm](http://www.schoolshistory.org.uk/medicine.htm)