

## **Process Paper- The Birth of Immunology**

Over the course of several years, I read about historical advances made in medicine. I found the creation of the vaccine to be one of the most significant turning points in history. Currently, I am a part of the medical-science program at Midwood High School and I have a great interest in the scientific discoveries made in the medical field along with how they impacted their surrounding societies. As a result, I decided to choose “The Birth of Immunology” as the topic of my research for the National History Day project.

To further understand the importance of Edward Jenner’s discovery, I indulged into examining his manuscripts and accounts (specifically a book found in England’s Medical Royal Society Library) of the first vaccination he completed. In addition, I read about and watched several documentaries on others’ perspectives of the work Dr. Jenner completed. To further signify the importance of his discovery, I compared statistics of those infected with smallpox over the course of several centuries along with mortality rates. Clearly, Edward Jenner’s innovation saved many lives, led to an eradication of smallpox, and fostered a significant advance in medicine.

During the research I completed, I noticed that creating a website would be the most efficient way to present my topic, “The Birth of Immunology”. I incorporated several images that allow the reader to have a visual interpretation of the events which occurred at the time of the invention of the first vaccine. For example, the depiction of people affected by smallpox attests the essential need of Edward Jenner’s work, to allow humanity to survive and not suffer from this fatal infectious disease. The video files that I added give the audience a voice to hear, such as a firsthand account through an interview. Similarly, the music creates a mood of new beginnings, accompanying the main goal Edward Jenner set for himself. Gathering all of the sources I found during my study of Edward Jenner and the smallpox vaccine, I created a website and chronologically organized the information by topic. Edward Jenner devoted himself to improve the lives of people in the society and worked intuitively. I followed Edward Jenner’s creativity and was motivated to dedicate a website to his life-changing discovery.

The Birth of Immunology is a significant turning point in history, one that transformed societies throughout the world. The first vaccine was created in England and by 1800 was utilized in Europe as well as across the Atlantic Ocean in the New World. Eventually, the smallpox vaccine was present all over the world and this led to the eradication of smallpox. This deadly infectious disease was the only one in history to be completely erased from earth’s surface. Indeed, this saved humanity and allowed further advancements politically, economically, and socially. The idea of a vaccine fostered the development of a new medical field of Immunology and allowed to successfully battle with many other infectious diseases.