

A Living Archives Lesson Plan

Class	Social Studies	Grade Level	7
Topic	<i>From Leeches to Liver Pills: Medicine in the 19th Century</i>	Required Time	Two 45 minute lessons and one excursion
Materials	Computer/Internet access; access to <i>A Living Archives</i> website; pencils and paper; <i>Teacher Resources</i> sheet. Percussion instruments could be utilised, if desired, for the final classroom assignment, but are not a necessary requirement.		
Prerequisite Skills/Knowledge	- Basic research and analysis skills		
Learning Outcomes	<i>Social Studies:</i> 7.3.1 Evaluate the conditions of everyday life for diverse peoples living in British North America in the mid-1800s, including Aboriginal peoples, African-Canadians, and Acadians <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identify and describe religious, health, and educational organizations which were available to various classes, genders, and diverse peoples in urban and rural areas		
Learning Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hook: Begin the class by asking pupils to discuss how we stay healthy today. What health services do we have at our disposal when we are ill? What precautions do we take against becoming ill? Do our surroundings make a difference to our health?2. Describe the health conditions and medical services of the 19th century. Ask pupils to break into pairs and discuss some of the differences that might exist between that time and our own, and then write down their answers. Students should be encouraged to consider some of the following topics:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The advancement of medical knowledge• The advancement of technology and diagnostic equipment• The improvement of public utilities such as water and sewerage• The development of hospital services3. Ask the students to research some of the major developments in medicine during the 19th century. How did these discoveries and inventions improve the ability of medical professionals to deal with illness and disease? As a class, create a timeline of medicine during the 19th century for display on the class wall. Ask the students to produce drawings, or find images, for the display. Then ask them to annotate the timeline with short paragraphs describing the discoveries that they have found and the reasons why they think that these discoveries were important to medicine.		

4. Describe the health services that existed in urban and rural areas of Prince Edward Island in the 19th century. Explain some of the facilities that were, and were not, available at this time. What do the students think that life in Charlottetown would have been like without the kind of facilities that we rely on today? Which sectors of society would have been most at risk from illness and disease as a result?

5. Explain to the students that not all of the people who treated medical complaints in the 19th century would have had the professional qualifications that doctors need to have today. Why do the students think that some people might have consulted unqualified members of the community rather than go to a 'real' doctor? Why might this have been particularly true for the poor? Ask the students to discuss this topic with a partner and then write a paragraph or two to answer these questions.

6. As a class, discuss how doctors today diagnose and treat illnesses. How do we know that the medicines we are given are safe? Do the students think that this would have been the case in the 19th century? Tell the students to use the images and Etexts on *A Living Archives* to investigate. Begin by asking the students to imagine that they are living in the 19th century and that for weeks they have been suffering from a series of minor medical ailments. These include the following problems:

- Cramps
- Indigestion
- Dizziness
- Kidney trouble
- Eye infection
- Poor complexion
- Sore throat
- Sleeplessness
- Chapped hands and lips
- Bad breath

The students need to look for remedies that will help them. See if they can find medications in *A Living Archives* that claim to cure the symptoms that they are suffering from. There may be more than one treatment for each ailment. How many can they find?

7. Using *A Living Archives* show the students the text 'Cures for Cancer in the 1900s'. Ask the students to consider what this text tells them about the limitations of medicine in the 19th century and the possible effectiveness of some of the treatments that were prescribed. Would the advertisement of 'patent medicines' be allowed today?

**Research
Excursion**

A Trip to the Public Archives and Records Office of Prince Edward Island

[Note: It is advised that you contact the Public Archives and Records Office in advance of your planned visit, so that staff may make any necessary arrangements to accommodate your students and provide advice on suitable materials.]

1. Tell the students that you would like to produce a pamphlet about medicine on Prince Edward Island in the 19th century. You are sending the students to the Public Archives as researchers. Ask them to split into pairs or small groups to investigate. The students can choose which topics they would like to research, but some of the following areas might be useful to include in the pamphlet:

- Medical workers
- Hospitals
- Drugstores
- Medicines and medical equipment
- Medical folklore and superstitions
- Development of public utilities
- Women and medicine
- Mental health care
- Veterinary medicine

2. In addition to this research, ask the students to use the microfilm readers to investigate one of the following topics, and to make notes on what they discover:

Either

- Epidemics on 19th century Prince Edward Island:
 - a) - The Smallpox Epidemic of November 1885
 - b) - Typhus fever on the ship “Lady Constable” in May 1847

Or

- Advertisements for medicines and home remedies

Assessment

- Assessment of participation in discussions and written tasks
- Research work
- Classroom Assignment: It is the 19th century and you are working for a company that produces well-known medical remedies. This week they are launching a brand new product at the Two Macs Drugstore in Charlottetown. Eager to gain more publicity, they have asked you and your classmates to create a catchy song or jingle to advertise their product at the big launch. Using the knowledge that you have acquired from your research, work in small groups to decide on the name of your product and what kind of ailments it is able to treat. Then create a song that would grab the attention of the 19th century residents of Charlottetown.

Teacher Resources from *A Living Archives*

Medicine Bottle

<http://livingarchives.ca/?q=node/318&pid=la:695&collection=object>

Helpful Hints for Housekeepers, page 34

<http://livingarchives.ca/?q=node/318&pid=la:598&collection=object>

Helpful Hints for Housekeepers, page 3

<http://livingarchives.ca/?q=node/318&pid=la:596&collection=object>

Helpful Hints for Housekeepers, back cover

<http://livingarchives.ca/?q=node/318&pid=la:594&collection=object>

Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry

<http://livingarchives.ca/?q=node/318&pid=la:280&collection=object>

Women's Weakness, Dodd's Kidney Pills

<http://livingarchives.ca/?q=node/318&pid=la:282&collection=object>

Herb Juice

<http://livingarchives.ca/blog/emilyb/nov-13-2007/707>

Beauty Secret's from the 1900's

<http://livingarchives.ca/blog/haileyr/nov-26-2007/824>

Montague Drugstore

<http://livingarchives.ca/?q=node/318&pid=la:586&collection=object>

Eye Washer

<http://livingarchives.ca/blog/haileyr/oct-31-2007/500>

Medical Tools

<http://livingarchives.ca/blog/andrewj/oct-31-2007/501>

Cures for Cancer in the 1900's

<http://livingarchives.ca/blog/haileyr/nov-20-2007/753>

Doctor's Medical Bag

<http://livingarchives.ca/blog/alexm/nov-23-2007/791>

Dr. Stephen Rice Jenkins

<http://livingarchives.ca/blog/andrewj/nov-27-2007/870>

Dodd's Pills

<http://livingarchives.ca/blog/andrewj/nov-20-2007/749>

Household Remedies

<http://livingarchives.ca/blog/emilyb/nov-23-2007/790>

Two Macs Drugstore, Interior

<http://livingarchives.ca/?q=node/318&pid=la:241&collection=object>

Two Macs Drugstore, Interior

<http://livingarchives.ca/?q=node/318&pid=la:240&collection=object>