

Science and medicine

Greek scientists were influenced by Egyptian and Babylonian scholars. They made great advances in science, and particularly in medicine. The Greeks believed illness was sent as a punishment from the gods. Asclepius, the god of medicine, would help his priests to give cures. The priests' work began progress toward the practice of modern medicine.



The god
Asclepius

True or false?

Check the boxes to show which of these statements are true or false, using the information on this page to help you.

- | | TRUE | FALSE |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The god of medicine was called Asclepius. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Hippocrates is the founder of modern medicine. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Hippocrates' school of medicine was in Crete. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The Hippocratic Oath was a list of illnesses. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The writings of Hippocrates are called the <i>Corpus</i> . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Hippocrates

Hippocrates (c. 469–399 BCE) is often described as the founder of modern medicine. He believed that all illnesses had natural causes. He aimed to do away with the superstitious beliefs that illnesses were sent by gods.

- He based his treatments on detailed observations of patients' symptoms.
- He wrote 53 books on medical topics, now known as the *Corpus*.
- He created a code for the way doctors should behave, which has become known as the Hippocratic Oath.
- He set up a school of medicine on the island of Cos.
- He taught that the human body was a single organism and that each part could only be understood as part of the whole.



Hippocrates

Eureka!

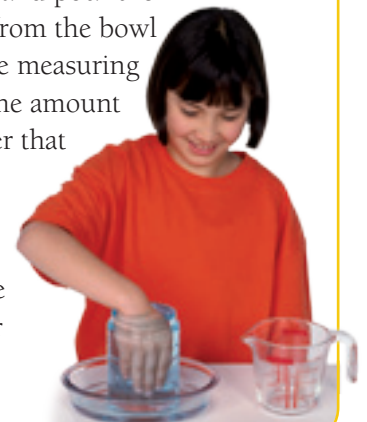
Archimedes (287–211 BCE), a brilliant scientist and inventor, made a great discovery when getting into his bathtub. He noticed that the level of water went up as he got in. He realized that you could measure how much space an object took up (its volume) by placing it in water. It was said he was so excited about this that he ran naked through the streets, yelling "Eureka!" ("I've found it!")

Figure out the volume of your hand by using the same method. You will need a jar, a bowl, water, and a measuring cup.

1 Fill a jar to the very top with water and place it in the bowl.

2 Put your hand slowly into the jar and watch the water spill over into the bowl.

3 Take your hand out of the jar and pour the water from the bowl into the measuring cup. The amount of water that spilled over is the volume of your hand.



Activity Answers

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True or false?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5