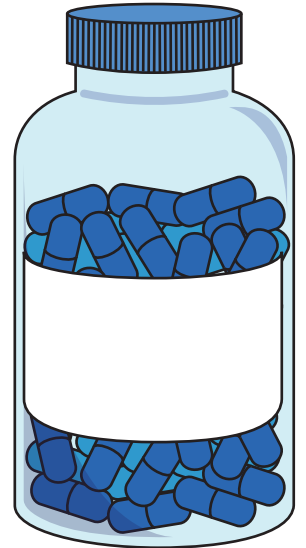# The History of *Medicine*

Directions: Learn the history of medicine in a hands-on way! Read the history of medicine below, then cut out the events on the next page and paste them into the timeline to create your own history of medicine. *Hint*: Match the squares to the spaces on the timeline to put the events in order.

Humans have been caring for others for many years. Ancient people tried to cure sickness using plants, herbs and other natural materials. As early as 4000 BC, people built special places where others could receive help if they were feeling sick, like hospitals we know today, but little was understood about the human body. During the Renaissance, people became interested in science and the natural world, which led to better understanding of the human body and how it worked.

In the 1800s scientists learned that germs caused illness, and hospitals began to focus on keeping clean to keep germs away. For many years, people who worked in hospitals were thought of as lowly, but as hospitals began improving, nursing came to be thought of as a respectable job. As the Industrial Revolution took off, there were many improvements on medical tools and machines. As such, treating sickness became easier and less risky.

In the 20th century, many advancements were made in medical science. Doctors began to develop protection against many harmful diseases. Today, healthcare isn't just about doctors: nurses, EMTs, physical therapists and technicians are all part of a large healthcare system that helps to keep people healthy.

The History of *Medicine*

Ancient cultures all over the world used herbs and other natural items to treat wounds and illness.

Doctors begin to develop vaccines as protection from harmful sicknesses.

Medical help doesn't just come from doctors anymore - nurses, EMTs, physical therapists, and technicians are all important parts of the healthcare industry.

The Renaissance sparked an interest in science, and doctors began studying the human body more and more.

Doctors and nurses began to understand that diseases spread through germs, and focused on making sure hospitals were clean and tidy.

Ancient peoples built special places where others could receive help if they were feeling sick, something like the hospitals we have today.

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