

Poison Pump

In 1854 a cholera epidemic broke out in the slums of London.

Throughout history, the disease called “cholera” killed millions of people, and hundreds died in the 1854 epidemic. One man, Dr. John Snow, discovered the source and stopped the epidemic.

You now have the same information that Dr. Snow possessed and you will try to solve the mysterious epidemic.

Procedure:

1. Collect your materials (*Broad Street Area Map*, *Victim Cards*, marking pen). Do not look at the *Clue Cards* yet.
2. Mark the location of victims on the map.
3. Study the *Victim Cards* and write down all common characteristics.
4. Mark your suspected source of the epidemic.
5. Imagine you are with Dr. Snow and you have to convince the city leaders to take action on the source of this terrible epidemic. Write a defense of your decision as to the source of the disease.
6. One at a time, read from the Clue Cards. These cards reveal additional information uncovered by Dr. Snow. As more information is given, either confirm or revise your conclusions.

This disease broke out in India before it became a London epidemic. Using a map, locate India and London. Discuss how the disease might have traveled to London. Write a group explanation of how this disease traveled across so many countries.

Quiz: Answer as a group and give your paper to the teacher.

1. How did cholera get into the water used by the people who lived on Broad Street?

2. Why are we unlikely to contract cholera living in North America?

3. What are the symptoms of cholera?