

Assignment: An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793

Directions: After reading the following pages from Jim Murphy's book, *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793*, answer the questions.

Pages 11-16

1. What are some symptoms of Yellow Fever?
  2. In 1793 no one knew what caused Yellow Fever, but they had some theories. What were some of these theories?
  3. What actually causes Yellow Fever?
  4. How did doctors and people feel about Yellow Fever in 1793?
  5. List an interesting fact from the reading.
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Pages 21-28

1. How did the people of Philadelphia react to news of Yellow Fever? What did they do?
2. What did Mayor Clarkson do to help fight Yellow Fever?
3. What were some of Dr. Benjamin Rush's beliefs regarding Yellow Fever?
4. What did Dr. William Curie believe?
5. What were some of the recommendations to prevent catching Yellow Fever?
6. List an interesting fact from the reading.

Pages 37-45

1. What was happening to the local government in Philadelphia?

2. What were some of the problems the city was facing?
  3. What was Bush Hill? What was it like?
  4. What was happening to the federal government (President Washington, Congress)?
  5. List an interesting fact from the reading.
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Pages 47; 50-55

1. What was the Free African Society?
  2. How did the Free African Society help?
  3. How many black nurses helped during the Yellow Fever Epidemic?
  4. Besides nursing the Yellow Fever victims, what else did the Free African Society do?
  5. List an interesting fact from the reading.
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Pages 57-65

1. Who was Dr. Benjamin Rush?
2. What is bloodletting?
3. What was the Ten-and-Ten treatment?
4. Was Dr. Rush's treatment good?
5. List an interesting fact from the reading.

Pages 68-75

1. What did Mayor Clarkson's special committee do to help?

2. What did the Orphan Committee do to help?
  3. How did conditions at Bush Hill change? List several improvements.
  4. How did Dr. Jean Deveze treat Yellow Fever?
  5. How was Dr. Deveze's treatment different from Dr. Rush's treatment?
  6. List an interesting fact from the reading.
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Pages 79-84; 96-99; 101

1. About how many people were dying each day?
2. What kind of crimes were committed during the Yellow Fever Epidemic?
3. When did the doctors think the Fever would end?
4. How had Philadelphia changed?
5. List an interesting fact from the reading.