



The Story of Edward Jenner

Reading Comprehension

Can you fill in the blanks in the story from the words in the box below?

Edward Jenner was born in _____, England. As a young boy Jenner's favourite subject was _____ and when he grew up he became a _____. At the time the people of England were terrified of a deadly disease called _____. Symptoms included severe _____ and many people died. Jenner noticed that milkmaids who caught the harmless infection _____, from their milking cows did not die from smallpox. Jenner took pus from the hand of a _____ who had cow pox and infected a boy called _____. The boy got infected with cowpox but soon recovered. Jenner then _____ James with smallpox. A _____ developed but the boy did not develop smallpox. Jenner was delighted that his idea was correct, he went on to _____ all the children in his town with cowpox to stop them getting smallpox.

Cowpox, James Phipps, Smallpox, Gloucestershire, Doctor, Milk-maid, Science, Scarring, Infected, Scab, Vaccinate

A Historic Hero

Dr Edward Jenner is one of the most important people in scientific history.

Without his discovery of vaccinations more than half your class would not be here today.

Did you know?

By the age of 9 each child may have had at least 12 injections to prevent 13 different dangerous infections.

Fascinating Fact

Vaccination comes from the Latin word for a cow – vacca

Understanding

Answer the following questions:

1. What was the name of the doctor who discovered vaccinations?

2. What was the name of the deadly disease at the time?

3. What was Jenner's idea to stop the deadly disease?

4. What happened to James after he was infected with the cowpox?

5. What happened to James after he was infected with the smallpox?

6. Why was it important for Jenner to test his idea on James before treating lots of children?
