

Public Health Through the Ages: Creating a Public Health Timeline

Objective:

- To research and understand notable public health events throughout history.
- To create a visual timeline showcasing key milestones and advancements in public health.
- To analyze the impact of these events on society and public health practices.

Materials Needed:

- Internet access or library resources for research
- Poster board or large paper or large post-it notes
- Markers
- Tape
- Images or illustrations representing public health events (optional)

Activity Steps:

1. Introduction to Public Health History
 - Begin the activity by discussing the importance of public health and its impact on society.
2. Research Phase
 - Divide the students into small groups or pairs.
 - Have students draw their public health topic from a hat based on the topics outlined below.
 - Provide each group with resources (books, articles, websites) to research notable public health events throughout history.
 - Depending on their topic, have students research important dates, locations, key figures, key data points, policies/laws, prevention/eradication strategies and where we are today.
3. Creating the Timeline
 - After completing their research, instruct each group to create a visual timeline of events.
 - Have students arrange the events chronologically, from earliest to most recent.
 - Have students include brief descriptions or captions for each event to explain its significance.
 - Leave space between events to allow for connections, annotations, or additional information.
4. Presentation and Reflection:

- Once the timeline is complete, allow each individual or group to present their work to the class.
- During presentations, encourage students to explain the context of each event and its impact on public health and humanity.

Notable Public Health Events

Miasma/Germ Theory. Approx. Date: 1800s

Jon Snow and the Broad St. Pump. Approx. Date: 1854

Typhoid Mary. Approx. Date: 1906-1907

Occupational Safety. Approx. Date: Late 1800s – Early 1900s

Maternal and Infant Health. Approx. Date: Early 1900s

Tuberculosis Control. Approx. Date: Early 1900s

1918 Influenza Pandemic. Approx. Date: 1918

Motor Vehicle Safety. Approx. Date: 1920s-1970s

Antibiotic Resistance. Approx. Date: 1940s – Present

Polio Vaccine. Approx. Date: 1955

Malaria Prevention and Control. Approx. Date: 1950s – Present

Tobacco Control. Approx. Date: 1960s – Present

Eradication of Smallpox. Approx. Date: 1960s-1980

Childhood Lead Poisoning and Prevention. Approx. Date: 1970s – Present

Safe Water and Sanitation. Approx. Date: 1800s – Present

Public Health Preparedness and Response. Approx. Date: 2000s - Present

*** Public health events can be added or omitted depending on the needs of the group.** Several of these are ongoing public health areas rather than single historical events, so their placement

depends on whether you want to order them by first major development, landmark intervention or historical significance.