

Unit 1 Great Scientists



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John Snow Defeats “King Cholera”





Raise questions based on the title:

- **Who was John Snow?**
 - **What kind of disease was cholera?
Why was it called “king cholera”?**
 - **How did John Snow defeat it?**
 - **What is the point of learning such a story?**
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Understand the background of the story:

- ❑ John Snow was an expert doctor, and the Queen's personal physician in the 19th century in London.
 - ❑ Cholera was the deadly disease of the time, which killed thousands of people every time there was an outbreak. Neither its cause nor its cure was understood.
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Understand the background of the story:

- John Snow became inspired when thinking about helping ordinary people exposed to cholera. He wanted to find the cause of cholera so that it could be controlled.

(who were) put at the risk of; threatened by

with the desire
/confidence /enthusiasm
to do sth well; full of
ambition; motivated

Two theories about how cholera reached the human body:

- ☐ 1. It was spread through the air.
 - ☐ 2. It was spread by food.
-

Keep reading. Follow John on his journey to defeat cholera.

- Circle the major verbs that describe John's actions of each step.
 - For example, at the very beginning, John Snow suspected that the second theory was corrected. And when an outbreak hit London again, he began to gather information. (para.3)
 - Underline the stage results concluded in para. 3-6.
 - For example, (in para.4) when discovering many deaths were connected to the water pump, he concluded that "it seemed the water was to blame."
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Give a report of the process of his research.

action

3. *suspected* – began his enquiry
– **gathered** information
4. **drew** a map to better analyze information – **noticed** something unexpected – made further **investigations**
5. looked **into** the water source – found out the truth – had the handle **removed** (it worked!)
6. found **supporting** evidence from the case of a woman and her daughter

conclusion

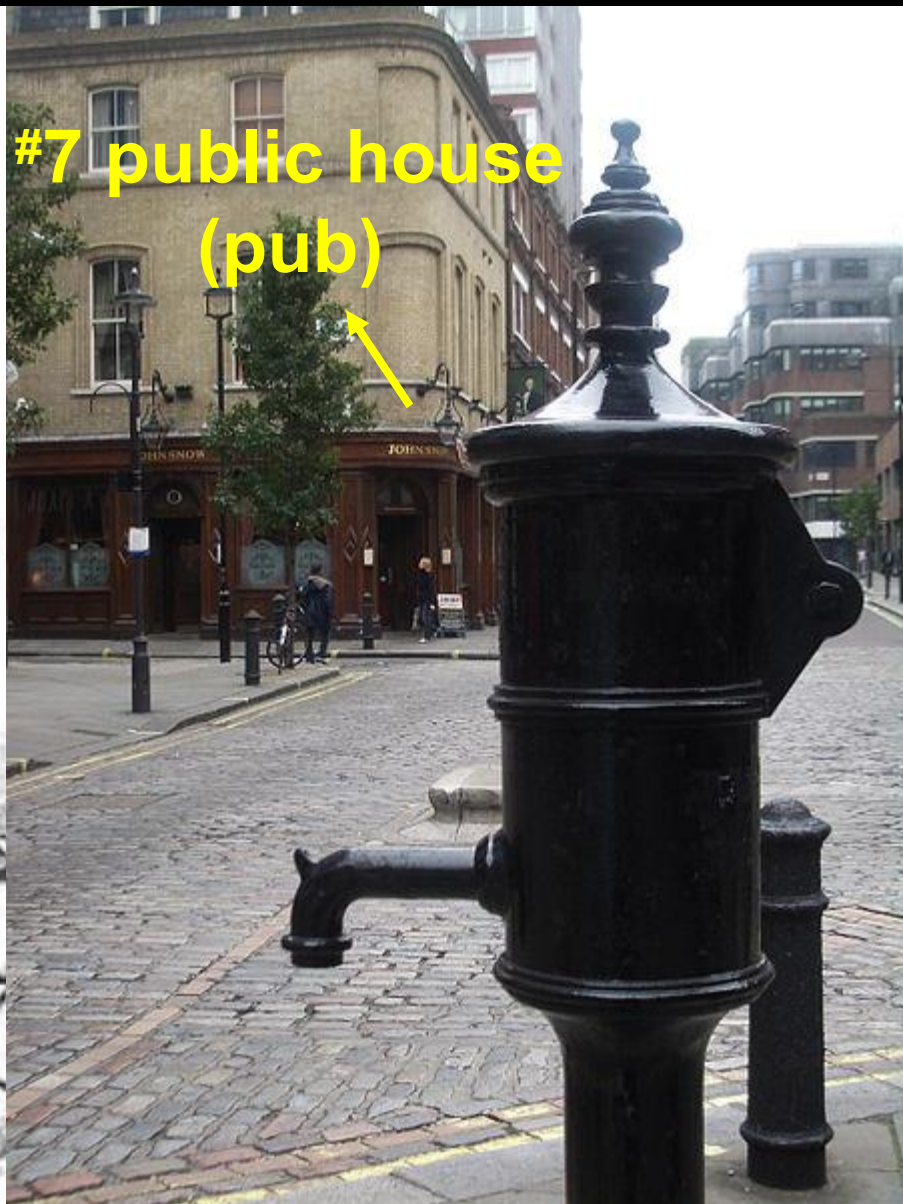
→ It **seemed** that the water was to **blame**.

→ ... **shown** that cholera was spread by germs carried in the **water**.

→ ... **announce with certainty** that polluted water WAS to blame

Evaluation: What do you think of John Snow's way of doing research?

- ☐ Serious-minded.
 - ☐ Cautious.
 - ☐ Smart and effective.
 - ☐ ...
-



Voila! The **culprit** was found. But was this the end of the story?

□ suggestions:

- ① the source of all water supplies (should) be examined.
- ② the water companies (should) not expose people to polluted water anymore.

□ What do these suggestions tell you about John Snow's personality / character?

- He had a strong civic sense, a responsibility and love for the public.

(With great power comes great responsibility!

--Spiderman)

Revision and Discussion:

What do we learn from the story of John Snow defeating cholera, in terms of *scientific facts of cholera itself*, Snow's *approach to the problem*, and Snow's *character reflected in the story*?

Free talk: Do you want to be like John Snow?

- ☐ **Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value. (Albert Einstein)**
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Assignment

- Write a summary of the article.

- Sample:

John Snow was a well-known physician in London in the 19th century, when cholera, a deadly disease, killed many people every time there was an outbreak. He wanted to find its cause in order to defeat it. In 1854 when cholera hit London again, he began to gather information. He marked on a map where all the dead people had lived and he found that many of them had drunk the water from the pump. So he guessed that the water carried cholera. Then he found out that the water from the pump came from a polluted river and therefore had the pump handle removed. It worked, so he showed that cholera was spread by germs in the dirty water. After finding more evidence from two other deaths related to the pump, he could declare with confidence that contaminated water carried the cholera germs. He then made suggestions regarding water safety. Finally, “King Cholera” was defeated.

Creative assignment

- Write an epitaph on John Snow's grave in which you draw a conclusion of his achievements.

- Sample:

"In Brompton cemetery there was laid to rest, at the age of forty-five, John Snow (1813-1858), exemplary citizen and useful physician. He demonstrated that cholera is communicated by contaminated water, and he made the art of anaesthesia a science."

