

# CURES

## Lesson Plan: “Cures” Chart

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**Objective:** Students will understand that approaches used in the care and treatment of people with disabilities evolved as scientific and medical knowledge developed throughout history.

**Materials:** Cures Worksheet  
Website pages

**Vocabulary:**

asylum	barbiturate	blistering
blood letting	cerebral palsy	chromosome
depression	disabilities	electroconvulsive therapy
epilepsy	genetics	hydrotherapy
idiocy	infantile paralysis	lobotomy
mental illness	muscular dystrophy	pharmaceuticals
purging	trepanning	vaccine

### New York State Learning Standards:

ELA Standard 1: Language for Information and Understanding

ELA Standard 4: Language for Social Interaction

SS Standard 1: History of the United States and New York

### Procedure:

1. The teacher should view the Cures section of the Medicine wing of the website for background information.
2. Selections from the website can be viewed by students online or copies of those pages can be printed for student use.
3. Lead the class in a discussion of the statement, “yesterday’s cure would be unspeakable today.” Explain that early, premedical notions of the causes of disabilities were rooted in superstition and were limited to the medical knowledge of the times. As such, cures of the past were attempts to remedy conditions of disability through (in today’s terms) primitive means.
4. Have students give examples of misconceived notions of cures of today. (i.e. chicken soup is a cure for the common cold or a reference from the movie, “My Big Fat Greek Wedding,” which portrayed cure-all properties in Windex).
5. Using the website materials, students should complete the Cures worksheet comparing past and present medical cures used in the care and treatment of people with disabilities.
6. Students will share their findings to the class.

**Closure/Ticket out the door:** Explain one way “cures” for disabilities have evolved.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### CURES

Suppose you are a museum curator. You have been asked to create a chart comparing yesterday's medical cures for the care and treatment of people with disabilities with treatments used today. This chart will be used as a display in the museum and should meet the following criteria:

- The information is accurate and includes dates.
- The information is well summarized.
- The chart helps the viewer understand differences between past and present cures.

Use the template below to submit your chart to the museum director (teacher) for approval.

<b>Cures of Yesterday</b>	<b>Treatments of Today</b>