

How significant was Hippocrates?

Activity Significance activity using Partington's criteria

Resources

1. Significance chart (1 for each pupil)
 2. Card sort on criteria for significance (1 per group of four students)
 3. Significance prompt statements (1 copy for each pupil)
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Context

Students are studying the history of medicine and have completed prior work on Hippocrates' developments, including the Hippocratic Oath, Four Humours Theory, natural remedies, observation & recording & Hippocratic collection

Aims

1. Allow students to articulate what 'significance' means
 2. Students to apply Partington's criteria to measure Hippocrates' importance
 3. Students to make a substantiated judgement about Hippocrates' significance
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Instructions

1. Discuss briefly with students what the word 'significance' means to them. Try to arrive at a simple whole-class definition of what the word means
 2. Introduce the idea of measuring significance. Ask students to complete the card sort on criteria for significance. They should rearrange the cards into a pyramid from the one which is most important to the four which are least important. Two cards are blank for them to suggest their own criteria.
 3. Take some feedback and then show students' Partington's five criteria for measuring importance. These are on the significance chart.
 4. Give students the prompt statements for considering Hippocrates' significance. Ask them to cut them out and stick them on their chart, alongside which of Partington's criteria they believe the statement will help them best to appraise.
 5. Now ask students to rate Hippocrates; importance on the scales alongside each of Partington's criteria. Then ask them to pair and share in partners and fours, discussing their reasons why.
 6. Give students a choice of written summary task in which they explain their decision. Either:-
Why was Hippocrates significant? (Students to pick one of the criteria on their chart and explain for the scoring they gave it, using examples to support)
Or:-
How significant was Hippocrates? (Students make a judgement and then create a balanced answer, considering both arguments for and against Hippocrates' significance, applying Partington's criteria and justifying with criteria.
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Follow up

Students will go on to measure significance of other key individuals in the history of medicine. This will include Galen, with whom they will do a similar activity and then compare with Hippocrates.

