

# How significant was Hippocrates?

Significance cardsort

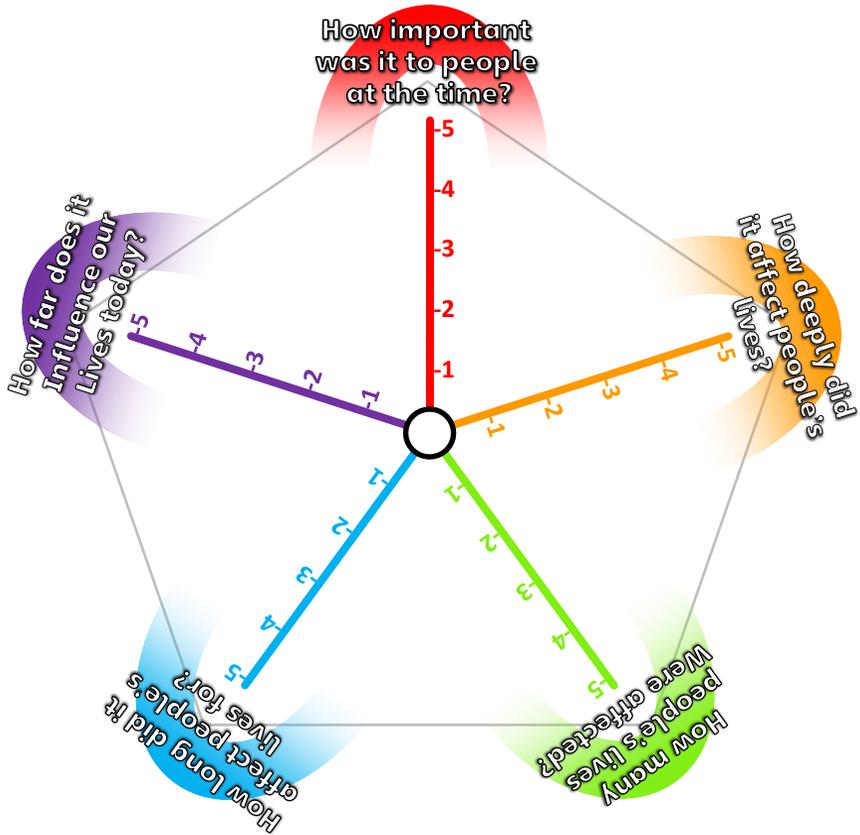
The person/event influenced others or set off a chain of other events	The person/event was totally different to anything which had come before	The person/event continues to affect our lives today
Your own idea...	The person/event affected people's lives very deeply	The person/event was seen as important by people at the time
Your own idea...	The person/event had a long lasting impact on people's lives	The person/event changed or affected a large number of people's lives

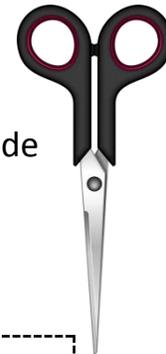
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Here are some clues to start you thinking about how important Hippocrates' work actually was. They will help you decide how to score Hippocrates' work on your chart.

You should cut out each statement and decide which of the scales on your chart it helps you with.

Most Ancient Greek specialist doctors would have studied the Hippocratic Collection as part of their training.	Despite Hippocrates' work, people in Ancient Rome and the Middle Ages continued to blame disease on supernatural causes e.g. on God	Most Ancient Greeks were too poor to afford to see a specialist doctor.	The Four Humours Theory continued to be believed for almost 1,500 years.	Modern doctors continue to swear a Hippocratic Oath, promising not to harm their patients and to keep their details confidential
Hippocrates' methods of observation and recording allowed Greek doctors to select the right cures for their patients.	Two hundred years after Hippocrates' work, the Greeks were still building Asclepeia where patients could seek healing from the God Asclepius.	Despite Hippocrates' work, most Greeks continued to believe the gods affected every part of their lives. Many continued to blame disease on the gods and believed that Asclepius could heal them.	During the Middle Ages, Christian monks used treatments based on the Four Humours Theory	Towards the end of the Renaissance, the Four Humours Theory began to drop out of use.
Because Hippocrates said that disease had natural causes (unbalanced humours) this encouraged specialist doctors to use natural remedies.	Using treatments like diet and exercise helped many Ancient Greek patients to recover.	As a result of Hippocrates' work, some Greeks began to move away from blaming disease on the Gods.	Medieval doctors were trained by the Christian Church to respect patient confidentiality.	Diet and exercise are both recommended by doctors today to improve their patients' health.
Hippocrates' practice of recording symptoms and cures allowed knowledge to be stored over time and shared. Doctors learned more about the body and how diseases develop.	The Hippocratic Oath improved trust between Greek doctors and their patients. As a result, patients went to their doctors more often. This was important for the doctors, who gained more knowledge and experience from this.	Sick Ancient Greeks still went to see holy men and magicians for prayers or magic charms to heal their illnesses, even after Hippocrates' work.	Despite Hippocrates' work, ordinary Greek people's health remained poor. They continued to live in dirty houses with filthy streets where disease could spread.	Most Ancient Greeks continued to be treated by their wives and mothers who had never studied Hippocrates' work. They often used their own herbal remedies which had been handed down through their families.
Some of Hippocrates' remedies would not have worked. Bleeding and purging were not effective cures for illness.	Despite Hippocrates' work, nobody really understood the true cause of disease in Ancient Greece.	The Hippocratic Collection was preserved for thousands of years in both the Islamic and Christian world.	500 years after Hippocrates, the great Roman doctor used Hippocrates' work as the basis of his Treatment of Opposites.	In some areas of the UK, bleeding and purging was still being used in the 1700s.
Hippocrates' work had no impact on surgery. Most Greek doctors continued to avoid doing it, because it was dangerous.	The Hippocratic Oath set clear standards which all specialist doctors were trained to follow in Ancient Greece.	Doctors today observe their patients' symptoms carefully in order to diagnose them.	The Greeks stored Hippocrates' work at a great library in the city of Alexandria. When the Romans captured this city, they took Hippocrates' ideas and used them.	When the Black Death struck in the Middle Ages, doctors blamed it on unbalanced humours. They were unable to cure the disease though.