

SAVVAS



It's All About the Shot

**How a Pandemic Increased
Our Awareness of Vaccines**

Hook & Inspire! Connections to Today

Ignite students' interest by sharing these resources, which demonstrate connections between the past and present. Please be sure to preview all resources.

Vaccines

Sometimes change occurs little by little, under our noses, but with little influence on our daily lives. Other times it takes a pandemic for people to take notice of changes in our society or world. It wasn't until the early 1800s that the United States made vaccinations mandatory. Prior to this time, thousands of children perished from other illnesses, creating a need for some change regarding health procedures in the United States. Currently in the United States vaccines and the choice of whether to make them mandatory are a matter of great debate. However, the debate concerning vaccines has been going on for centuries.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1). What is a vaccine? Why are vaccines such a controversial topic today?

Student answers may vary on this topic. Vaccines began around the late 1700s as smallpox and yellow fever epidemics broke out. Even then there were pros and cons to receiving the vaccinations. Many argued that the side effects of a vaccine were too great. [This History News Network website](#) describes some of the controversies surrounding vaccines over time.

2). The effectiveness and approval of vaccines are handled by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. However, the legality of vaccine mandates by different levels of government has been a matter handled by the U.S. court system. What are your thoughts concerning vaccine mandates?

It's great to hear the opinions of our students. Depending on the age and personal experiences of your students they may need more information before creating their own response. [This History News Network website](#) gives a timeline on vaccines and the role the United States judicial system has played in upholding vaccine mandates in various cases.

3). Should individuals be required to show their vaccination cards or certificates? Why or why not should people be required to show their vaccination cards or certificates?

Student answers may vary depending on past knowledge. This is a very controversial subject right now. Some countries are banning the United States citizens from entering their country even with proof of vaccination. [History.com](#) gives information concerning the physical proof from the smallpox vaccination.

4). Recently the COVID Pfizer version of the vaccine received full approval from the FDA. What does that mean for citizens? What does it mean to have approval from the FDA?

Student answers may vary depending on past knowledge. Students may need more information which they can find at [FDA.gov](#).

5). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has a detailed website concerning vaccinations and latest new information. What does the website say concerning vaccines and eradicating certain diseases?

[This CDC website](#) is a great way to review research methods with students. The teacher may want to show the website to all the students, then allow them to further research on their own.

Share the online resources below with your class to stimulate discussion on these questions. Be sure to preview the clips before showing or sharing them in class to ensure the content is appropriate for your students.

LINKS TO RESOURCES

Videos

- 1). [Vaccines 101: How vaccines work](#); This video gives basic information on how vaccines work (note: this video mentions HPV).
- 2). [Chile, Israel and the problem with vaccinations | DW News](#); This video discusses Israel and other countries and their issues with vaccines.
- 3). [Vaccines and the Immune Response: How Vaccines Work](#); This video discusses the basics of vaccinations.
- 4). [Covid-19: what will it take to vaccinate the world? | The Economist](#); This video discusses the time it would or will take to vaccinate the entire world for COVID.
- 5). [Why Do We Get Vaccines?](#); This video discusses why we get vaccines. Very kid-friendly.

Media

- 1). [Infographic: COVID Vaccine Rates](#); This photo shows the vaccination rate for the COVID vaccine by country.
- 2). [Infographic: Antibiotics vs Vaccines](#); This image shows the difference between vaccines and antibiotics and how they attack the disease differently.
- 3). [Vaccines - Pros & Cons](#); This website gives a great view of the pros and cons of vaccines.
- 4). [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Vaccinations - Statistics and Research](#); This website can be used for allowing students to analyze data.
- 5). [10 Reasons To Get Vaccinated](#); This website gives a 10 step reason list for getting vaccines.

Websites

- 1). [When Did Mandatory Vaccinations Become Common?](#); This website reviews the history of the vaccine and why it became a requirement in the 1800s.
- 2). [Vaccine History: Developments by Year](#); This website reviews the history of the vaccine as well.
- 3). <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/index.html>; This is the CDC's official website.
- 4). [Get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines](#); This website discusses the COVID vaccine.
- 5). [Timeline | History of Vaccines](#); This website provides information concerning the history of vaccinations back to the Chinese era. It's also interactive.

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