

THE SPREAD AND ERADICATION OF SMALLPOX



In China, people appealed to the god Yo Ho Long for protection from smallpox.



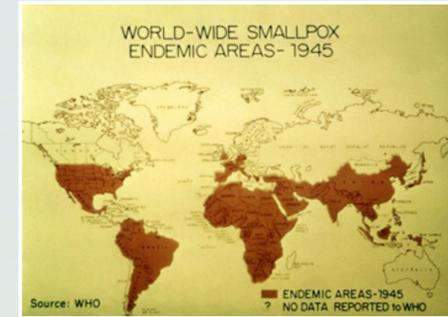
Smallpox goddess Shitala Mata, worshipped in northern India, was considered both the cause and cure of smallpox disease.



West African god of smallpox Shapona was thought to force the disease upon humans due to his "divine displeasure."



A container used to store the powdery variolation material in Ethiopia.



Worldwide distribution of smallpox and the countries in which it was endemic in 1945.

Smallpox is present in the Egyptian Empire.

Increased trade with China and Korea introduces smallpox into Japan.

Smallpox spreads to Asia Minor, the area of present-day Turkey.

Population expansion and more frequent travel renders smallpox endemic in previously unaffected Central and North Europe, with severe epidemics occurring as far as Iceland.

European colonization and the African slave trade import smallpox into the Caribbean and Central and South America.

Variolation—a process of grinding up dried smallpox scabs from a smallpox patient and inhaling them or scratching them into an arm of an uninfected person—is being used in China and India to control smallpox.

Variolation is introduced into England by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, a wife of the British ambassador in Turkey.

In 1796, Edward Jenner, an English doctor, shows the effectiveness of previous cowpox infection in protecting people from smallpox, forming the basis for vaccination.

3RD CENTURY BCE

4TH CENTURY BCE

6TH CENTURY

7TH CENTURY

10TH CENTURY

11TH CENTURY

13TH CENTURY

15TH CENTURY

16TH CENTURY

17TH CENTURY

18TH CENTURY

20TH CENTURY

A written description of a disease that clearly resembles smallpox appears in China.

Smallpox is widespread in India. Arab expansion spreads smallpox into northern Africa, Spain, and Portugal.

Crusades further contribute to the spread of smallpox in Europe with the European Christians moving to and from the Middle East during the next two centuries.

Portuguese expeditions to African west coast and new trade routes with eastern parts of Africa introduce the disease into West Africa.

Variolation is a commonly used method for preventing smallpox in the Ottoman Empire (former Asia Minor, present-day Turkey) and North Africa.

European colonization imports smallpox into North America.

Smallpox is widespread in Africa, Asia, and South America in the early 1900s, while Europe and North America have smallpox largely under control through the use of mass vaccination.

After a global eradication campaign that lasted more than 20 years, the 33rd World Health Assembly officially declares the world free of smallpox in 1980.



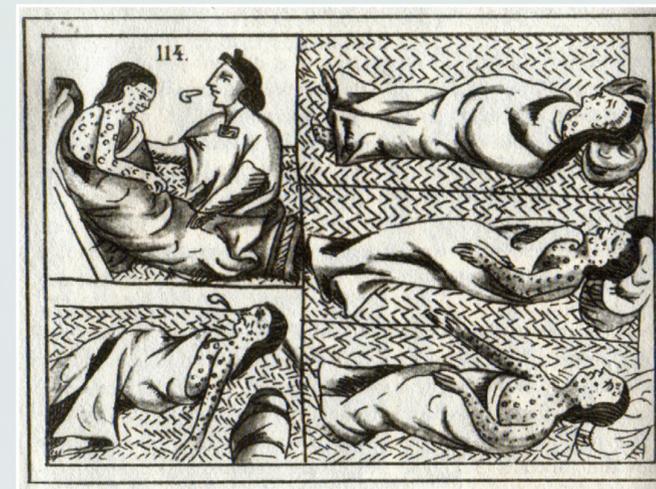
Traces of smallpox pustules were found on the head of a 3,000-year-old mummy of the Pharaoh Ramses V.



Japanese woman defeats the "smallpox demon" by wearing red. In Japan, families who fell sick with smallpox set up shrines in their homes to appease the demon.



The Ottoman Empire in 1801 extended from Turkey (Anatolia) to Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, northern Africa and parts of Middle East. Smallpox is thought to arrive here from Asia through major trade routes, like the Silk Road.



Introduction of smallpox into Mexico by the Spanish around 1520 was one of the factors that led to the demise of Aztec Empire. Franciscan missionary Bernardino de Sahagun, who lived there from 1545 until his death in 1590, illustrated this in his accounts of the Aztec history entitled "General History of the Things of New Spain."



Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, a survivor of smallpox herself, had both of her children variolated and was the foremost advocate of the technique in England.



Edward Jenner (1749-1823)

