

Can you discover the causes of Cholera?

Cholera is actually spread through infected water supplies. Many people had studied the first major outbreak of the disease and believed there was a link with the water supply.

Cholera spread from India into Europe (see the attached map) and first arrived in Britain in 1832. Major epidemics followed in 1848 and 1854.

In 1854 Dr John Snow attempted to show the link between infected water and the outbreak of cholera. Follow the clues and find out which part of Soho in London was the source of the outbreak.

Remember as this extract tells us:

'... my impression is that [the miasma] chemically infects exposed water, and the poorer classes using such water are consequently the greater sufferers...'

Part of a letter from Mr Perkins to the government's Board of Health 1848

(Box each of the following items)

Brewery on Broad Street: None of the workmen have caught cholera. They prefer to drink the beer and rarely, if at all use the water pump nearby

Five families who had deceased members in their family, always used the pump on Broad Street

Three children who died went to the school in Broad Street

200 people worked in a factory on Broad Street. 18 of them died

There is a deep well near the Brewery where the men work

A cesspit near the pump has a cracked lining

535 people lived in the workhouse and got their water from a nearby well. Only five died.

A widow living in the suburbs of London, in an area clear of the disease. It was later discovered that she had a bottle of water from Broad Street sent to her every as she liked its taste.

The widow's niece also died of cholera

Which statements are true?

The Weather had been very hot. Foul gases (miasmas) from the decaying rubbish on the streets had caused cholera to break out.

Big establishments like the Breweries had their own wells.

Infected people had moved into the area and infected the air

The Broad Street pump was well polluted with sewage

People drank beer if it was available and survived, as it was not contaminated.

The high density of population had caused the disease to spread rapidly

Some people preferred the water from the Broad Street pump that they had it delivered to their house

Cholera is a water-borne disease

Making the modern World John Snow and the Broad street pump

