

## Hippocrates | Lesson Plan

How did Hippocrates become known as the “Father of Medicine?”

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Students will understand how Hippocrates became known as the “Father of Medicine.” Students will also understand the importance of the “Hippocratic Oath” to “do no harm” and show compassion to those suffering.

### Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key contributions and role of Hippocrates in the history of medicine.
- Explain the historical context of health and medicine in ancient Greece, including prevalent superstitions.
- Analyze and interpret the principles of Hippocrates’ medical teachings.
- Apply critical thinking to identify qualities and skills that make a good physician, inspired by Hippocrates’ teachings.
- Summarize the importance of the Hippocratic Oath in medical ethics.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Compassion:** Having sympathy and showing kindness and care for someone suffering; being willing to help others.
- **Physician:** A person qualified to practice medicine; a doctor.
- **Superstition:** A belief or action based on fear of the unknown and faith in magic or luck.
- **Oath:** A formal promise.
- **Hippocratic Oath:** An oath of medical ethics from Hippocrates’ teachings that pledges to “do no harm.”

**Educational Standards:** CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.W.2

**Academic Subject Areas:** Biography, Western Civilization

### What You’ll Need

- Video: *Hippocrates: The Father of Medicine* (Click [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Hippocrates* (Click [Here](#))

### Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Warm-Up: (15 minutes)

1. Initiate a class discussion on compassion. Encourage students to share their definition of the word and think of someone compassionate – a parent, teacher, doctor, coach, pastor, etc. – and what makes that person compassionate. Invite students to share examples aloud and brainstorm together.



2. Display a copy of the *Hippocrates Worksheet* and pass out individual worksheets to students.
3. Instruct students to write their definition of “compassion” and an example of someone compassionate in the Warm-Up Activity. Teachers may need to model an example for students.
4. Once completed, engage students in a discussion about careers or roles that require compassion (e.g., mothers, doctors, etc.) Focus specifically on medical professions. Ask students what qualities or skills make a good doctor.
5. Read over the rest of the worksheet as a class so students know what to listen for during the video. Invite students to predict what they might learn about the famous physician Hippocrates.
6. Set the stage for the upcoming video by highlighting the theme of compassion. Encourage students to look for ways throughout the video of Hippocrates displaying compassion.

Watch and Complete: (20 minutes)

1. Watch the video.
2. Assist students with completing the worksheet as they watch, encouraging note-taking and active listening.
3. Pause throughout the video to allow students to answer questions—especially short answer responses. If necessary, model short answer responses, restate the question, and write a complete sentence.

Wrap-Up: (10-15 minutes)

1. Allow students 10 minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Collect as formative assessment or discuss in class.
3. Ask students to share their responses to the “Making Connections” section.
4. Conclude with an open-ended prompt for students to reflect on how they can be more compassionate to their friends or family, just like Hippocrates was. Also, encourage students to remember to be grateful for compassionate doctors who help others feel better.

**Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)**

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.