Celebrating the NHS

What Is the NHS?

The initialism NHS stands for National Health Service: a group of organisations that provide medical care for people living in the UK. Staff working for the NHS support the health and wellbeing of the population.

An estimated 1.5 million people work for the NHS including: cleaners, cooks, doctors, nurses, midwives, office staff and paramedics. Every single person's role is important for the NHS to work effectively as a health system for the country.
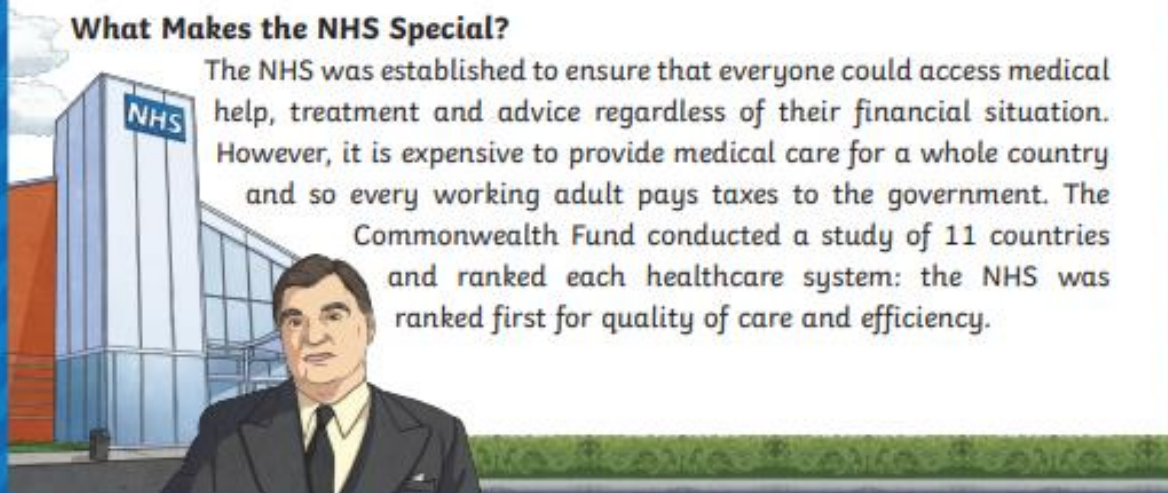
When Was the NHS Founded?

Before the founding of the NHS, only affluent people could afford to access hospital care or seek medical help; every visit to a healthcare professional would cost money. Therefore, many people did not have access to the medical care that they needed.

After the Second World War, Aneurin Bevan became the Minister of Health in the Labour government. He started the National Health Service on 5th July 1948. Mr Bevan wanted a system which provided medical care that was free for everyone to access within the UK.

What Makes the NHS Special?

The NHS was established to ensure that everyone could access medical help, treatment and advice regardless of their financial situation. However, it is expensive to provide medical care for a whole country and so every working adult pays taxes to the government. The Commonwealth Fund conducted a study of 11 countries and ranked each healthcare system: the NHS was ranked first for quality of care and efficiency.

Many people consider themselves lucky to have access to the NHS in the UK. While there are some countries which have government-funded healthcare, other nations operate very differently. In some parts of the world, people without insurance (or who can't afford treatment) would not be able to access medical care. There are also places where the quality of care you receive will be dependent on what you can afford.

How Did the NHS Respond to the Coronavirus Pandemic?

During the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, NHS staff were praised for their bravery and self-sacrifice. Doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers have risked their own lives to care for other people.

A total of 17 buildings around the UK were converted into hospital facilities to deal with the pandemic. Many professionals (who had left or retired from the NHS) were asked to return to help.

How Have We Been Celebrating Our NHS?

During the coronavirus pandemic, the British people showed their gratitude towards NHS staff in several ways:

Sir Captain Tom Moore became renowned across the UK when, to mark his 100th birthday, he walked 100 lengths of his garden using his walking frame. In doing so, he raised over £32m for the NHS during the coronavirus pandemic.

During what was referred to as 'lockdown', families were advised to stay home to prevent the spread of the virus. People could only leave their homes once a day for exercise and were instructed not to meet with anyone from outside their own household. Children and their families made and displayed rainbows in their homes as a way of spreading hope and thanking the NHS for their amazing work.

At 8 p.m. on Thursday evenings, a round of applause could be heard across the nation as people clapped and cheered for the NHS from their doorsteps. Some found other creative ways of making noise such as banging saucepans, beeping car horns and playing instruments. This was to show their appreciation for the key workers who were going to work to keep everyone safe.

What Might the Future Hold for the NHS?

The NHS costs the country around £153 bn every year. Over recent years, there has been a lot of debate amongst politicians as to whether or not the NHS should be privatised. Privatisation is when a service is no longer run by the government but by private companies (the rail service has been privatised). Those in favour of privatisation argue that people are now living around 13 years longer than they did when the NHS was established: the NHS is becoming more expensive to operate.

1. What was Aneurin Bevan's job title? Tick one.

   ○ politician
   ○ Minister for the NHS
   ○ doctor
   ○ Minister for Health

2. Draw **four** lines and match each word to its definition.

health insurance	When a service is no longer run by the government but by private companies.
pandemic	A disease which has spread to lots of countries.
privatisation	The government-funded healthcare system for people in the UK.
National Health Service	The money people pay to companies to cover the cost of medical care.

3. Who has the author written this text for?

   _____

4. Find and copy one word which shows that the NHS staff put the needs of others before their own.

   _____

5. Who conducted the study in which the NHS ranked the highest for quality of care?

   _____

6. How is healthcare different in the UK compared to other countries?

_____

_____

_____

7. Which is the most important section in the text? Justify your choice.

_____

_____

_____

8. Summarise how the NHS dealt with the coronavirus pandemic in 25 words or fewer.

_____

_____

_____

9. Why do you think so many people helped Sir Captain Tom Moore to raise over £32m for NHS charities?

_____

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10. Explain in no more than 50 words what makes the NHS worth celebrating.

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Creative Writing Task

The Ascent

The word '**ascend**' means '**to rise or climb up**'.

Write a story with the title *The Ascent.*

Remember to:

- o Plan your writing.

- o Think about what will make your writing unique.

- o Use a wide range of vocabulary, sentence structures and punctuation.

- o Read through your writing and neatly correct any spelling, punctuation or grammar errors.

Maya Writing

The Maya were one of the five ancient civilisations to develop a writing script. The earliest Maya writing was found in Guatemala and dates to as far back as 300 BC.

The Maya people used signs or symbols called hieroglyphs or glyphs for short. Maya writing was written in columns and then read in a zig-zag way, like this:

The glyphs numbered 1 through 12.

Codices

There are four known codices left today; Grolier, Madrid, Paris and Dresden.

The Paris Codex: The Paris Codex was found in Paris and contains important information about the Maya astronomical signs (similar to zodiac signs). The Paris Codex is kept at the National Library of Paris in France.

The Dresden Codex: The Dresden Codex was found in Vienna, Austria, in 1759. It is the most complete of the three codices.

The Grolier Codex: The Grolier Codex was displayed at the Grolier Club in New York. Some historians argue that it is fake, although the fig bark paper it is written on is real.

There was not one single Mayan language and there are over 800 Maya glyphs.

Examples of Maya writing have been found carved in wood, on pottery, on stone monuments and in codices (books). Their temples were also carved with writing.

Codices were Maya books written by priests and clever people. In 1562, Diego de Landa (a priest - religious man) ordered the burning of many Maya codices as he believed they were a work of the devil. The Spanish also burned hundreds of other documents as well.

Landa's records on Maya writing were useful in helping us to understand their writing system. He wrote a guide to some of the glyphs which became known as Landa's alphabet. In the 1950's, a Russian man called Yuri Valentinovich Knorosov discovered that a lot of the Maya writing was based on sounds. This has really helped us to understand the Maya writing a lot better.

The Madrid Codex

The Madrid Codex measures 22 feet in length. It is painted on both sides and contains information about religious beliefs and rituals. It is now kept in the Museo de America in Madrid.

Maya Writing Comprehension Questions

1. Where were the earliest examples of Maya writing found?

2. What is the name of the symbols the Maya people used to write with?

3. Where has Maya writing been found?

4. Who was Diego de Landa?

5. How did the Russian man, Yuri Valentinovich Knorosov help us to understand Maya writing better?

6. Which places do some of the Maya codices get their names from?

7. Which codex is the most complete?

8. Which codex might not be real?

Now can you think of your own question to ask a friend? Make sure you know the answer too!

My question:

Some glyphs used in Maya hieroglyphic writing are called logograms. Logograms represent a whole word.

CHAN
'sky'

WINIK
'person'

WITZ
'mountain'

K'IN
'sun'

B'ALAM
'jaguar'

K'AK'
'fire'

BAK
'bone'

WAY
'spirit'

Can you research **three** different Maya Logograms?

Magic Squares

Complete these magic squares.

Don't use the same number twice in a square and the numbers must add up to the same number in each row, column and diagonal line.

a)

8		9
	6	
3		4

b)

13	9	8
12		

c)

3		
10	5	
2		

d)

2	7	6
9		1
	3	

e)

	2	
	7	
4		5

f)

6		11
7		12

g)

9		
8		6
		5

h) Now make your own.

i) Now make your own.

Mental Maths Challenge Cards

Jon's football sticker collection can hold 300 stickers. He already has 150 English players and 105 other players. How many more will fit into the album?

43

Mental Maths Challenge Cards

The sum of two numbers is 14 and their difference is four. What are the numbers?

530

Mental Maths Challenge Cards

Lucy cycled 88 miles in 3 days. On the first day she cycled 28km and the second day she cycled 31km. How many miles did she cycle on the third day?

77

Mental Maths Challenge Cards

There are 35 more girls than boys in a school. If there are 198 boys, how many pupils are in the school?

6