

## SH2 - The Discovery of Vaccinations Script

### The Discovery of Vaccinations Script

Scene 1 - by a river

* Narrator - Edward Jenner was born in 1749. As a young boy Edward enjoyed science and nature, spending hours on the banks of the river Severn looking for fossils.
* Jenner - What a lovely day to go looking for fossils on the bank of the river Severn. What could be more perfect?
* Narrator - In 1770, at the age of 21, he began training as a doctor in London. Two years later Edward began to practice as a doctor in his home town of Berkeley, Gloucestershire. At this time smallpox and cowpox were a problem.

Scene 2 - Dr Jenner's office

* Jenner - Oh come in come in, what seems to be the problem Mr and Mrs Smith?
* Mrs Smith - Well Dr Jenner, my husband has got himself a cowpox rash. What can be done for him?
* Mrs Smith - Also doctor, a friend of mine died last year from smallpox. But he never had cowpox.
* Jenner - Yes, do go on Mr Smith.
* Mrs Smith - Well, I know lots of other people who have had cowpox but then never got smallpox. Do you think this means I won’t get it doctor?
* Jenner - You know Mr Smith, you are not the first patient to say that to me. I have my suspicions that you are correct. I will investigate the matter
* Narrator - And the good doctor did just that. When milk maid Sarah Nelmes came to Dr Jenner with a cowpox rash he took the opportunity to experiment with the help of an 8 year old boy, James Phipps.

Scene 3 - Dr Jenner's office

* Sarah - Doctor, I’ve got a cowpox rash on my hand.
* Jenner - OK Miss Nelmes, let me take a look at that. Right young James, come here please and hold out your hand.
* Sarah – What are you doing doctor?
* Jenner - An experiment Miss Nelmes. I shall take some of the pus from your rash and scratch it into James’ hand.
* Narrator - James fell ill with cowpox but soon recovered. Dr Jenner was ready for part 2 of his experiment. It was now that the doctor scratched some pus from someone with smallpox into James’ arm.
* Jenner - James my boy, if all goes to plan your name will go down in medical history.
* James - But what if it doesn’t go to plan Dr Jenner?
* Jenner - I won’t lie to you James, you might well die.
* James - (Gulps) Oh!
* Narrator - But James didn’t die. Jenner’s theory was right and in time his discovery came to be known as vaccination. He then went on to vaccinate all the local children with cowpox to stop them from getting smallpox. Even today his work is still recognized and Gloucestershire Royal Hospital has a unit named after him.