

## **The History and Evolution of the Smallpox Vaccine**

My partner and I were both interested in medical topics and want to be in the medical field when we grow up. We decided that since the annual theme is "Turning Points in History" a vaccine would be a perfect match. When we did more research, we saw that the smallpox vaccine was a big turning point and had a big significance in medical history because of how much of a problem smallpox was and because it was the start of vaccination. So then we decided that we would pick the Smallpox Vaccine for our History Day project.

To conduct our research we looked through many sources. We went to the library to do more research and found books related to our topic. We looked for people to interview to help us learn more information and get opinions about our topic. During this time we also met up in each other's houses and met up in the library during our school break. During school days and weekends when we couldn't meet up in person, we did zoom calls to work on our project and make sure it was perfect. We also stayed after-school numerous times so we could reach the deadlines and submit our project.

We created our project using the website template given by NHD and following all the rules given. We researched the topic for our project and tried our hardest to reach the deadlines with a great project. We did all of our research and then we polished our project making sure there were no errors. We shared it with people who helped us evaluate and give their opinions on it. Finally we transferred all that to our website and gave our website a theme that would make it look amazing.

Our historical argument is: smallpox is a dangerous disease for countless reasons, such as its symptoms and how it was very infectious. It was the first and the only disease in humans so far to be eradicated. The smallpox vaccine, pioneered by Dr. Edward Jenner in 1796, was a turning point in medical history, providing a safer way to prevent smallpox than previous methods, and provided the framework for the development of future vaccines.

Our topic is significant because smallpox was a very deadly disease and had killed millions worldwide, and the vaccine was the reason for it to be eradicated. Smallpox had horrible symptoms and the death rate was high. Getting rid of it would be a huge accomplishment. There were other methods that people used to prevent smallpox before vaccination, but vaccination was the most helpful and safest. The smallpox vaccine was eventually used by The World Health Organization to eradicate smallpox globally. In conclusion not only did the vaccine get rid of smallpox but it was also the first vaccine created so it paved the way for modern vaccination and eradication programs.