

Teacher's Vocabulary: Book Caption

Some words are underlined as terms that students will need to define. Guide students through comprehension strategies for unknown words and for looking up their definitions in a dictionary.

"Like others in the 18th century who needed medical assistance, Washington relied on a combination of home health remedies, common sense, herbal treatments, and medical science, as dispensed by an array of doctors, surgeons, dentists, barbers, apothecaries, nurses, midwives, and the occasional charlatan or quack. He turned to medical advice found in the books in his library, and ordered an assortment of common and patent medicines for his family, staff, and slaves."

TASK 1: Read the book caption above, and circle words that you do not know. List them on the left column in the table below. Note your definition of those words you understood in context in the middle column. Look up all listed words and note

TERM	YOUR DEFINITION	DICTIONARY DEFINITION
remedies		<i>medicine, treatments for illness</i>
dispensed dispense		<i>prepared and distributed prepare and distribute</i>
apothecaries		<i>pharmacists, people who prepare and sell drugs/medicines</i>
midwives		<i>people who assist women in childbirth</i>
charlatan		<i>a person who talks of knowledge that she or he does not have</i>
quack		<i>a pretender to medical skill, an ignorant or dishonest practitioner</i>
patent medicines		<i>a packaged non-prescription drug which is protected by a trademark and whose contents are incompletely disclosed</i>
<i>additional word</i>		
<i>additional word</i>		

**National Library of Medicine. "Medical Dictionary." In MedlinePlus.
<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mplusdictionary.html> (accessed 8/14/2017)*

TASK 2: Is the text primary or secondary source? Explain your answer.

The excerpt is a secondary-source text as it is describing and interpreting what Washington had as medical resources.

TASK 3: Summarize the caption in your own words.

An example summary may read: Washington had access to what was available as medical care in the 18th century, which consisted of traditional cures and medical treatments that weren't always scientific from people who didn't always know what they were doing. Washington also used medical advice books to care for those for whom he had responsibility.