

## Teacher's Awful Calamity: Philadelphia in 1793

### Instructions

The Politics of Yellow Fever exhibition essay describes the professional roles and political beliefs held by Alexander Hamilton, Dr. Benjamin Rush, and other Philadelphians during the outbreak in 1793. Based on your paragraph, offer information to complete the items below.

1. Alexander Hamilton and Benjamin Rush held different political views as well as ideas about causes of and treatments for yellow fever.

	Alexander Hamilton held	Benjamin Rush held
Profession	<i>Secretary of the Treasury</i>	<i>Medical doctor/physician</i>
Personal politics	<i>Federalist [strong central government]</i>	<i>Opposing federalism [anti-Federalists with powerful states]</i>
Ideas about preventing yellow fever	<i>Refugees from Santo Domingo (Haiti today)</i>	<i>Miasma (=impure air)</i>
Opinions on yellow fever treatments	<i>Closing ports and restricting immigration</i>	<i>Eliminating impure air by improving sanitation</i>
Was the treatment effective or curative?	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>

2. Who worked and provided relief services during the outbreak, avoiding total collapse of the city and government?

*Private citizens formed The Committee to organize and operate Bush-Hill hospital, an orphanage, and distribution of supplies to those in need.*

*Free African American citizens worked and provided most of the nursing care and labor (e.g. grave digging, porters, etc.) for the city during the outbreak*

3. What critical discovery became an important part of preventing yellow fever? Who made the discovery and when?

*In 1900, Dr. Walter Reed discovered that mosquitoes transmit yellow fever to people. This discovery led to public health initiatives to control mosquitoes.*