

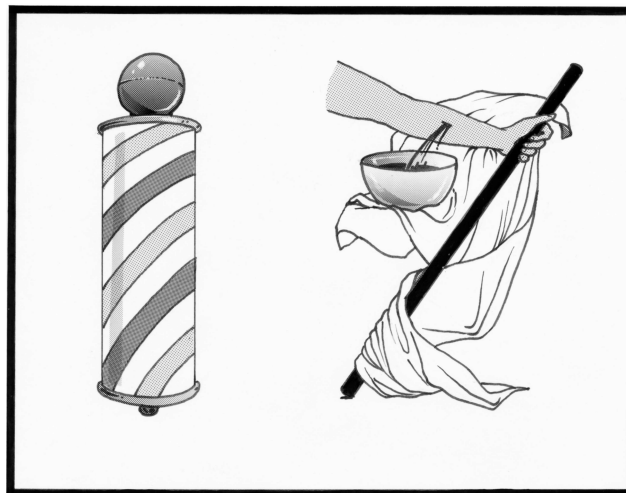
The Barber Pole

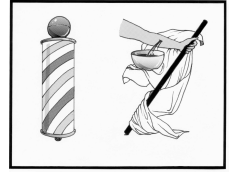
Today, a barber is a person who cuts and styles men's hair. His tools are scissors, combs, and razors. During the Middle Ages in Europe, a barber did many jobs. Not only did a barber cut hair, he also pulled teeth, performed surgery, and "bloodletting." A barber was called a "barber surgeon."

During the Middle Ages, people believed that the blood carried sickness and disease. They thought that a sick person would become better if part of the bad blood was drained out of the body. This was called "bloodletting." It was a very common practice.

The barber surgeon's tools were a pole for the patient to grab (this makes the veins easy to see), a bowl for the blood to drain into, and a lot of white bandages. Simply, a vein was cut and the blood was allowed to drain. After the operation, the bandages were hung on the pole and put outside the shop to dry. Outside, the wind would wrap the bloody bandages around the pole.

Today, a barber pole is used only as an advertisement. But, the modern barber pole is always red, white and blue. Why? Red represents the blood, blue the veins, and white the bandages used during the bloodletting in the Middle Ages.



**READING COMPREHENSION**

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

1. What does a barber do today?

2. What are a barber's tools?

3. During the Middle Ages, did a barber pull teeth?

4. What was a barber called?

5. When did people believe that the blood carried sickness and disease?

6. Why did they drain bad blood out of the body?

7. What was the practice called?

8. Name two of the barber surgeon's tools.

9. How does a barber surgeon perform bloodletting?

10. After the operation, where were the bandages hung?

11. Outside, what wrapped the bloody bandages around the pole?

12. Today, what is a barber pole used for?

13. What does the color blue represent?

VOCABULARY REVIEW

Unscramble the words below from the story. Then write one original sentence for each word.

1. rbebar _____

2. isrsssoc _____

3. zorra _____

4. erysurg _____

5. llodetoingb _____

6. asedise _____

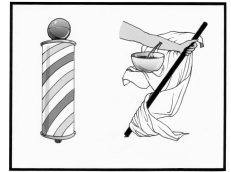
7. baagend _____

8. tionpeora _____

9. dveraementtis _____

Now find the words from above in the Word Search below.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| h | b | a | r | b | e | r | a | s | h | d | y | c |
| o | c | a | e | l | s | b | i | a | e | h | a | d |
| p | r | a | z | o | r | e | a | m | a | m | p | i |
| e | s | t | a | o | h | j | i | n | d | n | u | u |
| r | t | i | c | d | e | s | r | s | d | v | k | a |
| e | s | a | v | l | d | g | i | u | i | a | m | t |
| a | c | l | v | e | i | y | k | r | s | h | g | o |
| t | k | a | c | t | l | r | r | g | e | d | g | e |
| i | i | r | c | t | g | e | t | e | a | y | h | k |
| o | n | s | c | i | s | s | o | r | s | t | e | e |
| n | g | s | f | n | e | g | g | y | e | e | d | r |
| e | s | u | r | g | i | v | e | d | k | n | t | e |
| a | d | v | e | r | t | i | s | e | m | e | n | t |

**ANSWER KEY - SCRAMBLE AND WORD SEARCH**

1. barber
2. scissors
3. razor
4. surgery
5. bloodletting
6. disease
7. bandage
8. operation
9. advertisement

h b a r b e r a s h d y c
o c a e l s b i a e h a d
p r a z o r e a m a m p i
e s t a o h j i n d n u u
r t i c d e s r s d v k a
e s a v l d g i u i a m t
a c l v e i y k r s h g o
t k a c t l r r g e d g e
i i r c t g e t e a y h k
o n s c i s s o r s t e e
n g s f n e g g y e e d r
e s u r g i v e d k n t e
a d v e r t i s e m e n t