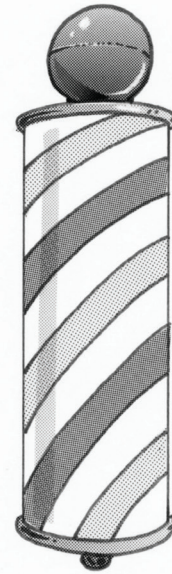


The Barber Pole

Reading

1. 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 performed "**bloodletting**." A barber was called a "barber surgeon."
2. During the Middle Ages, people believed that the blood carried sickness and **disease**. They thought that a sick person would get better if part of the bad blood was drained out of the body. This was called "bloodletting." It was a very common practice.
3. The barber surgeon's tools were a pole for the patient to grab (this made the veins easy to see), a bowl for the blood to drain into, and a lot of white **bandages**. First, the patient grabbed onto a pole. Next, the barber cut open a vein in the patient's arm, and then the blood drained into a bowl. Finally, the barber wrapped bandages around the patient's arm. 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.
4. 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 modern barber's tools?

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

4. What was a barber called during the Middle Ages?

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 did 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

A. Unscramble the Words

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

#	Word	Unscrambled	Sentence
1	rbebar		
2	isrsssoc		
3	zorra		
4	erysurg		
5	llodettoingb		
6	asedise		
7	baagend		
8	tionpeora		
9	dveraementtis		

B. Find the Words

Now find the words from the exercise above in the word search to the right.

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
a s a v l d g i u i a m t
t c l v e i y k r s h g o
i k a c t l r r g e d g e
o i r c t g e t e a y h k
n 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