

Name: _____ Date: _____



Read each of these sentences. If the statement refers to medical care BEFORE the Victorians colour it GREEN. If the statements refers to medical care AFTER the Victorians colour it RED.

People believed diseases were spread through 'bad air'.

Patients could use chloroform so they wouldn't feel pain.

Hospital beds were clean.

Surgical tools were not washed between patients.

Different hospitals were used for different diseases to minimise infections.

Doctors and nurses washed their hands between patients.

Nurses were properly trained and were respectable.

Surgical tools were washed in carbolic acid to sterilise them.

Doctors and nurses didn't wash their hands between patients.

Nurses usually had no training.

Carbolic acid was used to clean wounds to prevent infection.

People knew that it was germs that spread diseases.

There was no medicine for pain relief.

Infected wounds on arms and legs often had to be amputated.

Hospital beds were dirty and wards were cramped.

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Can you complete the table below to compare what medical care was like before the Victorians and what medical care was like after the Victorians?

Before the Victorians	After the Victorians
Patients often had to sleep in dirty, soiled beds in wards that were full and crowded.	
	Nurses were well trained and nursing was a respectable profession.
People believed that diseases, such as cholera and tuberculosis, were spread through miasma or 'bad air'.	
	Doctors and surgeons washed their hands between patients to minimise the spread of diseases.
There was nothing to clean wounds with to prevent infections.	
There was no form of pain relief, even for people who had to have arms or legs amputated.	
	Different hospitals were set up for different illnesses to help contain the diseases spreading and care for patients better.
	Proper sewage systems meant that diseases like cholera were less likely to spread.

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Can you describe what medical care was like before the Victorians and compare it to what is was like after the Victorians?
Use the words in the word box to help.

Before the Victorians	After the Victorians

anaesthetic antiseptic hospital surgery	surgeon doctor chloroform carbolic acid	cholera contamination epidemic sterilise	infection amputation miasma germ
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