



When you think about it, us Greeks have done more to push medicine forward than anybody else!



Absolute rubbish, it is the Romans who have made the biggest contribution to medicine!



## Instructions:

You will need to work in pairs for this exercise. One of you will need to take on the character of a Greek person and the other will need to become a Roman person. Both of you are very proud of your country and you both believe that either Greece or Rome has made the biggest contribution to the development of medicine. Your task is to produce a role play between your two characters in which you try to beat the other person and win the argument about medicine. You will need to have a plan of the points you wish to discuss and you should cover all of the following points and more if you can think of any:

- Galen and Hippocrates
- The suspected causes of disease
- Surgery
- Treatments for illness
- Public health facilities
- The Gods and temples of healing
- Ways of preventing illness
- Who practiced medicine and how they were trained
- The writing of medical books
- Why improvements have been made

This is an example of a short section you could have on Hippocrates and Galen

**Silenus (Greek)** “Of course we are fortunate to be able to say we produced the greatest doctor of all time.”

**Marcus (Roman)** “ Who might that be then?”

**Silenus** “Don’t be so ignorant, you know I am referring to the one and only Hippocrates, or as we like to call him, the Father of Modern Medicine.”

**Marcus** “Come on then, what did Hippocrates ever do?”

**Silenus** “Well to start with, the Four Humours theory was developed by him as you well know.”

**Marcus** “Don’t tell me you believe everything you read. Even I know that it was Alcmaeon of Croton who first came up with it. Anyway, you Greeks can’t even think up new ideas. The Four Humours theory is pretty similar to the Egyptian’s blockage theory, you just copied it and changed it a bit. Our Galen can think for himself, look at the opposites theory for example, a completely new idea.”  
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