

Why did the Greeks develop the theory of the four Humours and was it progress?



The Greeks began to move away from ----- ideas about the cause of illness and moved towards a more ----- approach. Scientific thinkers could not accept magical causes of illness because they could not be ----- . Greek doctors ----- their patients carefully and saw that when people were ill they often had a ----- coming out of the body. For example if a person was feeling sick they might ----- and bring up ----- . To the Greeks this meant that the body had too much of this liquid in it and it was trying to get rid of it to restore the ----- of the humours. The idea also fit in nicely with the Greek view that everything was made up of four ----- . Everything in the world was made up of -----, -----, ----- and ----- . There were also four ----- in the year. It was natural then that they should believe that the body was made up of four things.

ELEMENTS	SUPERNATURAL	OBSERVED	LOGICAL	SEASONS
VOMIT	BALANCE	WATER LIQUID	AIR FIRE	PROVED
		EARTH BILE		

The main way that this theory represented progress was that it was a long way from blaming illness on ----- . This meant that the Hippocratic doctors had begun to search for the real causes of illness instead of simply blaming the ----- . It encouraged doctors to closely ----- their patients and look at their ----- . As a result doctors often encouraged their patients to make changes to their ----- such as changing their ----- or getting more ----- or ----- . Unfortunately some of the treatments doctors prescribed such as ----- could be dangerous because of the risk of ----- and would not have helped to make people better. The Four Humours theory also held medicine back for the next 2000 years, because it was incorrect. Doctors kept their faith in the idea and so they failed to find the real causes of illness.

GODS	INFECTION	EVIL SPIRITS	BLEEDING	DIET
OBSERVE	LIFESTYLE	SYMPTOMS	REST	EXERCISE



So, as you can see the Four Humours theory of illness was a big step forward in some ways and did represent progress, but in other ways it actually held medicine back.