RENAISSANCE MEDICINE – THE WORK OF VESALIUS, PARE & HARVEY

**Andreas Vesalius**

- Vesalius studied anatomy. He became professor of surgery and anatomy at Padua university.
- He ransacked cemeteries for bodies. He dissected bodies and wrote books on his observations using accurate diagrams to illustrate his work.
- His most famous book was 'On the Fabric of the Human Body' - 1543.
- He pointed out some of Galen's mistakes. He proved there were no holes in the septum and that the jaw is made up of just one bone.
- He encouraged dissection.

**Ambroise Paré**

- Ambroise Paré was originally a barber surgeon before he became an army surgeon, he was his brother's apprentice.
- Barber-surgeons were medical practitioners who performed surgery, often on wounded soldiers.
- Barber-surgeons carried out bleeding operations, extracted teeth, sold medicines, performed surgery and cut hair.

**William Harvey**

- In battle, he ran out of boiling oil which was used to treat gunshot wounds. He mixed together an old Roman ointment of oil of roses, turpentine and egg yolk to treat the gunshot wounds.
- At the time, a hot cauterising iron was used to seal wounds. Paré also developed ligatures to seal wounds.
- Paré also carried out an experiment with a cock to disprove Galen. He proved that the bezoar stone isn’t a treatment for poison.
- Writes 'Notes on Surgery' in 1564 nad becomes surgeon to four successive French Kings.

Today a red and white pole is used to identify a barber's shop.

This was originally intended to reflect the blood and napkins that were used to clean up during bloodletting.
### Renaissance Medicine

**William Harvey - Circulation**

- Worked out that it was impossible for the blood to be burned up in the muscles and re-created as Galen had claimed.
- In 1628 he publishes *A Anatomic Account of the Motion of the Heart and Blood* which scientifically proved the circulation of the blood.
- Harvey also identifies the difference between arteries and veins and becomes doctor to the King.
- Although he proves that blood circulates, bleeding operations still continue as people are unsure of what else to do.
- Blood groups are discovered in 1901, which makes blood transfusion successful.

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### Do you know your stuff?

**Renaissance**

1. What was the name of Vesalius’ book and when was it published?
   - *On the Fabric of the Human Body* - 1543

2. Give two medical developments made by Ambrose Pare.
   - Made Roman cement to treat gunshot wounds.
   - Ligatures to heal wounds.

3. What was the name of Pare’s book and when was it published?
   - *Notes on Surgery* - 1564

4. What was the name of Harvey's book and when was it published?
   - *A Anatomic Account of the Motion of the Heart and Blood* - 1628.