

POLIOMYELITIS

HIGH SCHOOL WORK SHEET

What is Poliomyelitis?

- 1 Study the meaning of the word 'poliomyelitis' and explain which part of the human body is primarily affected by this disease.
- 2 What physical effects does poliomyelitis have on the human body?

History

- 3 How has Egyptology aided us in tracing back the history of this disease?
- 4 When was the disease clinically described for the first time and what was it called?
- 5 Even though polio existed for thousands of years, major epidemics were only seen for the first time in the 20th century. Explain this.

How is it spread?

- 6 Describe how polio is spread.
- 7 Although the body's natural defense mechanisms mostly prevent the spread of the virus, there seems to be one area that is at risk. Explain.

Symptoms

- 8 Would you say the early symptoms of polio are difficult to read? Why?

Photographic Captions

- 9 Study the photographic captions of the three forms of Paralytic Poliomyelitis and compare them in a table, with the following headings:

- symptoms
 - part of the body affected
 - final effect on the body
- 10 Summarise the disease under the following headings:
- a. Incubation period
 - b. Gravity
 - c. Diagnosis
 - d. Period of contagiousness

The Development of a Vaccine

- 11 List the kinds of treatments that patients received before the development of a vaccine.
- 12 Draw a timeline, tracing the development of a polio vaccine.

Poliomyelitis in South Africa

- 13 Outline, in bullet format, manifested itself and was managed in South Africa in the 20th Century.

Treatment

- 14 How is polio treated today?

Is Polio a problem in the world today?

- 15 Describe the World Health Organisation's campaign to eradicate polio, as well as the outcomes of this action.

Iron Lung

- 16 Why was the iron lung vital in the treatment of polio patients?
- 17 Describe how this machine was used.
- 18 Draw a timeline briefly summarising the development of the iron lung.