

## Time travel

In the garden at Dr Jenner's House is a rather unusual building.



## Explore

Can you describe this building? How old do you think it might be? What do you think it might have been used for?

Read this extract from a letter written by a friend of Edward Jenner's, describing a visit he made to Jenner's house in 1804.

*“It has been the custom for some time”, said he, “to set apart one morning in the week for inoculating the poor. And, this being the appointed day, the people you see, are come from the adjacent villages on that account. In the midst of those trees is a small mansion built in the cottage style. It consists of one room only and was erected for the purpose of giving a rural appearance to that part of my garden. I have lately converted it into a place of utility – and the people who come to be inoculated assemble there and wait until I come among them.”*

*In a few minutes we both rose up and went together to the Cottage. My friend first examined the arms of those he had inoculated the week before, and then inoculated others, strictly enjoining the parents to bring them the next appointed day, that he might know whether they had taken the infection.*

*I felt a mixture of pain and entertainment in hearing some of the poor villagers express their apprehensions respecting the benefit which vaccine inoculation afforded them and relate the prejudices of their rustic neighbours. But the Doctor very well understands the art of dealing with their prejudices; and it gave me great pleasure to observe the gentle and effectual manner with which he endeavoured to soothe their mind.*

*“It is a pleasing reflexion”, said he, after they were gone out, “that these poor children are forever secured from the dreadful evils which the disease I am striving to exterminate might have brought upon them.”*

## Reflect

This building, which Jenner called the **Temple of Vaccinia**, is actually the world's first vaccination clinic. It was here that Edward Jenner vaccinated people against smallpox for free.

What do vaccination clinics look like now?

Would you want to go for a vaccination at the Temple of Vaccinia?

## Imagine

We now have vaccines for many, many diseases but Jenner's vaccine was the world's first. Smallpox was an horrific disease which would have caused a lot of suffering to people at this time. It is highly likely that the people being vaccinated would have known someone who had contracted smallpox.

What do you think it would have been like to be one of the first people to ever be vaccinated?

How do you think you would feel waiting at the Temple of Vaccinia?

Why?