The History of Dentistry

Learn about the history of dentistry by reading the Historical Overview at http://web.archive.org/web/20070929083154/http://www.sadanet.co.za/dhw/history/overview.html

Then read each statement below. Color the circle next to the letter T if the statement is true. Color the circle next to F if the statement is false.

1. Oral disease has been a problem for humans since the beginning of history. O T O F

2. The earliest written reference to tooth decay dates back 25,000 years. O T O F

3. Ancient Egyptians used dates and onions to cure diseases of the teeth. O T O F

4. Herodotus, an ancient Greek historian, wrote of physicians who specialized in treating diseases of the teeth. O T O F

5. Hippocrates, a Greek physician, was the first to extract diseased teeth. O T O F

6. Some of the earliest mentions of “scraping” teeth, mouthwashes, and “toothbrushes” were recorded by Arabian physicians. O T O F

7. Dental “drills” were introduced in Europe during the Middle Ages. O T O F

8. During the Middle Ages, “surgeons” extracted teeth and cut hair. O T O F

9. In the 1400s, Italian dentists used gold to fill tooth cavities. O T O F

10. An English surgeon, John Hunter, is called the “father of modern dentistry.” O T O F

11. Paul Revere -- famous for his “midnight ride” that warned of a British invasion of Boston -- made replacement teeth called dentures. O T O F

12. George Washington had dentures made of wood. O T O F

13. In the 1700s, dentures were available only to the very wealthy. O T O F

14. In the 1840s, a Connecticut dentist, Dr. Horace Wells, introduced the use of anesthesia before surgery. O T O F

15. In the late 1800s, scientists proved that bacteria caused some dental diseases. O T O F

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