

The History of Dentistry

Name _____



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.

- T F 1. Oral disease has been a problem for humans since the beginning of history.
- T F 2. The earliest written reference to tooth decay dates back 25,000 years.
- T F 3. Ancient Egyptians used dates and onions to cure diseases of the teeth.
- T F 4. Herodotus, an ancient Greek historian, wrote of physicians who specialized in treating diseases of the teeth.
- T F 5. Hippocrates, a Greek physician, was the first to extract diseased teeth.
- T F 6. Some of the earliest mentions of “scraping” teeth, mouthwashes, and “toothbrushes” were recorded by Arabian physicians.
- T F 7. Dental “drills” were introduced in Europe during the Middle Ages.
- T F 8. During the Middle Ages, “surgeons” extracted teeth and cut hair.
- T F 9. In the 1400s, Italian dentists used gold to fill tooth cavities.
- T F 10. An English surgeon, John Hunter, is called the “father of modern dentistry.”
- T F 11. Paul Revere -- famous for his “midnight ride” that warned of a British invasion of Boston -- made replacement teeth called *dentures*.
- T F 12. George Washington had dentures made of wood.
- T F 13. In the 1700s, dentures were available only to the very wealthy.
- T F 14. In the 1840s, a Connecticut dentist, Dr. Horace Wells, introduced the use of anesthesia before surgery.
- T F 15. In the late 1800s, scientists proved that bacteria caused some dental diseases.