



# The discovery of vaccinations script

## Scene 1 - by a river

- Narrator Edward Jenner was born in 1749. As a young boy Edward enjoyed science and nature, spending hours on the banks of the river Severn looking for fossils.
- Jenner What a lovely day to go looking for fossils on the bank of the river Severn. What could be more perfect?
- Narrator In 1770, at the age of 21, he began training as a doctor in London. Two years later Edward began to practice as a doctor in his home town of Berkeley, Gloucestershire. At this time smallpox and cowpox were a problem.

## Scene 2 - Dr Jenner's office

- Jenner Oh come in come in, what seems to be the problem Mr and Mrs Smith?
- Mrs Smith Well Dr Jenner, my husband has got himself a cowpox rash. What can be done for him?
- Mr Smith Also doctor, a friend of mine died last year from smallpox. But he never had cowpox.
- Jenner Yes, do go on Mr Smith.
- Mr Smith Well, I know lots of other people who have had cowpox but then never got smallpox. Do you think this means I won't get it doctor?
- Jenner You know Mr Smith, you are not the first patient to say that to me. I have my suspicions that you are correct. I will investigate the matter.
- Narrator And the good doctor did just that. When milk maid Sarah Nelmes came to Dr Jenner with a cowpox rash he took the opportunity to experiment with the help of an 8 year old boy, James Phipps.

## Scene 3 - Dr Jenner's office

- Sarah Doctor, I've got a cowpox rash on my hand.
- Jenner OK Miss Nelmes, let me take a look at that. Right young James, come here please and hold out your hand.
- Sarah What are you doing doctor?
- Jenner An experiment Miss Nelmes. I shall take some of the pus from your rash and scratch it into James' hand.
- Narrator James fell ill with cowpox but soon recovered. Dr Jenner was ready for part 2 of his experiment. It was now that the doctor scratched some pus from someone with smallpox into James' arm.
- Jenner James my boy, if all goes to plan your name will go down in medical history.
- James But what if it doesn't go to plan Dr Jenner?
- Jenner I won't lie to you James, you might well die.
- James (Gulps) Oh!
- Narrator But James didn't die. Jenner's theory was right and in time his discovery came to be known as vaccination. He then went on to vaccinate all the local children with cowpox to stop them from getting smallpox. Even today his work is still recognized and Gloucestershire Royal Hospital has a unit named after him.

