# Historic Heroes (10-15 mins)

This activity is suitable for school and community groups and can be found in the [KS2 lesson plan](http://www.e-bug.eu/en-gb/ks2-vaccinations) “Vaccinations”. This activity will help participants understand how vaccinations were first discovered.

## Use the introduction in the KS2 lesson plan to discuss:

* Although there are many harmful microbes that can make us ill, in some cases, there are things we can do to prevent this happening.
* Explain that vaccinations are a harmless small amount of the microbe (e.g., disease markings or outer coat) that teaches our body how to fight the harmful microbe when or if we get attacked by the disease. Discuss class experiences of vaccinations, which vaccinations they remember getting and when they got them. For example, ask students to raise their hands if they have received the flu vaccination at school.
* Show the class images in PP1 of the disease and bacteria/viruses which they are likely to have been immunised against. Emphasise that in the 1700s these diseases were extremely common.
* Highlight that without their vaccinations, many of the students in the class would not have survived past 5 years of age. Explain that diseases like whooping cough, polio and TB are now extremely rare due to vaccinations.
* Remind students that some microbes change their outer coats like we change our clothes. Some microbes change their markings/coats so quickly that scientists cannot create vaccines for many infections (e.g., common cold/sore throat) or they have to make a new vaccine every year, like the flu vaccine.

## Before you begin you will need:

* Lesson plan for KS2 Vaccination, available on the website link [here](http://www.e-bug.eu/en-gb/ks2-vaccinations)

## Use the following steps as a guide to implement this activity:

* Ask the group to read the story of Edward Jenner (SH1)
* After reading the story, ask the group to fill in the spaces on their worksheet (SW1) and to answer the questions at the bottom of the worksheet.

**Use the plenary or discussion questions to check participant’s understanding after the activity is completed.**