

Role Play Scenarios

Some people simply did not like something new. Vaccination as an idea seemed unusual to them.

Sceptics believed it unbelievable that a disease that comes from cows could protect people against the human disease smallpox.

Doctors who were making a lot of money out of inoculating people did not want to lose that income.

Jenner could not offer any explanation as to why his vaccine worked so he was unable to answer his critics satisfactorily.

Vaccination was seen as dangerous and not all doctors who performed vaccination were as careful as Jenner. Some patients died when careless doctors mixed up the vaccines and infected them with smallpox instead of cowpox. Other doctors used infected needles and killed their patients that way.

As a result of the government making vaccination compulsory in the 1850s opposition increased. This was the first time an entire government had forced a medical treatment on the entire population. People saw this as the government forcing them to do things and a restriction of personal liberty