



Teacher Resource

# Polio Vaccinations

## Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What are some symptoms of polio?
2. How does polio spread?
3. When was the first polio vaccine developed?
  - a. 1935
  - b. 1955
  - c. 1975
4. When was Australia declared polio free?
5. What did the BTN story explain about the polio outbreak in Gaza?

## Activity: Note taking

Students will practise their note-taking skills while watching the BTN Polio Vaccinations story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect on and organise the information into three categories. What information in the story was positive, negative, or interesting?



## Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Polio Vaccinations story. Ask students to record what they learnt about polio and vaccines. What questions do students have? Use the following questions to guide the discussion:

- What is polio?
- How does it affect the body?
- How does polio spread?
- What is a vaccine?
- What vaccines do you know about?
- What impact have vaccines had on controlling disease?
- Why do you think it is important to learn about this topic?



### EPISODE 26

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#### KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate how vaccines work and the impact they have had on controlling disease.

#### CURRICULUM

##### Science – Year 5

Scientific understandings, discoveries and inventions are used to solve problems that directly affect peoples' lives.

##### Science – Years 5 & 6

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

##### Science – Year 7

Scientific knowledge has changed peoples' understanding of the world and is refined as new evidence becomes available.

## Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Polio Vaccinations story. Here are some words to get them started.

VACCINE	POLIO	INFECTIOUS
DISEASE	IMMUNISATION	VIRUS

Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each word (including unfamiliar words). They will swap definitions with a partner and ask them to add to or change the definition. Check these against the dictionary definition.

## Activity: Vaccine Research

In this activity students will work in groups to learn more about diseases and how vaccines have helped prevent them spreading in the community. Each group will become experts and then share what they have learnt with other students.

Divide the class into groups. Each group will be assigned a different vaccine which has been developed to prevent one of these diseases (*Polio, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B or chicken pox*) and learn more about it. Each group will need to decide how they will collect and communicate the information they find during their research.

### Research

Each group will respond to the following questions:

- What disease does the vaccine protect against? Describe the disease.
- What impact has/does the disease have on the community?
- How does it spread? (Direct or indirect contact, airborne transmission, food, water, or blood contamination.)
- When was the vaccine developed? Who developed it?
- How does the vaccine work?
- How often should a person be vaccinated?
- What impact has the vaccine had on controlling the disease worldwide?
- What are some interesting facts about the vaccine?

### Share

One student from each of the groups will form a new group to share the information they have collected. Students will make sure there is one person from each group at their table. Students will share the information they have collected and learn from one another.

### Reflect

Students will reflect on the activity by responding to the following questions:

- What did you enjoy about this investigation?
- What would you do differently next time?

## Activity: Elizabeth Kenny

Elizabeth Kenny was a self-trained bush nurse who developed a new way of treating polio. Students can watch the [BTN Elizabeth Kenny biography](#) to learn more about the work she did.

Here is the [BTN teacher resource](#) for questions and activities for students.

Listen to the [Fierce Girls podcast](#) to learn more about her life.



## BTN Vaccine Stories

Watch these BTN videos to help students learn more about vaccines.



[Epidemiology](#)



[Polio Return](#)



[Vaccination Debate](#)



[What is a virus?](#)

## Useful Websites

- [Polio](#) – History of Vaccines
- [Polio vaccine introduced in Australia](#) – National Museum Australia
- [Eradicating Polio](#) – UNICEF
- [Polio Return](#) – BTN
- [Children face a new battle as polio resurfaces in Gaza](#) - UNICEF