

A Brief History of Cannibalism

VOCABULARY

- ***Epilepsy** – is a brain condition which causes a person to suddenly lose consciousness and sometimes to have fits
- ***Hemorrhage** – is serious bleeding inside a person's body
- ***Salve** – an ointment for wounds, sores, etc
- ***Concoction** – something that has been made out of several things mixed together
- ***Kuru** – a degenerative disease of the nervous system, restricted to certain tribes in New Guinea, marked by loss of muscular control and thought to be caused by a slow virus

COMPREHENSION

1. In which century was ground up mummy (mumia) listed in the popular medical encyclopedia the Merck Index?
2. When did medicinal cannibalism begin in Europe?
3. Why did Columbus increase his efforts to exploit and enslave the native people of the Caribbean?
4. What is survival cannibalism?
5. Which human body parts were used in European medicinal cannibalism?

LET'S TALK

1. Why do you think that people are so fascinated with the topic of cannibalism?
2. Does Columbus' labeling of indigenous people as cannibals relate to other events throughout history and events that are happening today that have nothing to do with cannibalism? If so, how?