

## **WHAT IS HISTORY ?**

History is our story of the past. History begins with writing (written evidence).  
Before History human existence is known as **PREHISTORY or PREHISTORIC**.

## **HOW TO GET AROUND THE PROBLEMS OF POOR EVIDENCE ?**

Look at primitive societies. There are similarities between Prehistoric people and primitive people of today.

e.g. **ABORIGINES**

Believe the rocks, seas and rivers are spirits that control the world.

If a person was ill, the Aborigines say that an evil spirit may have entered his body, or that his own spirit has been drawn out of his body by an enemy.

## **PREHISTORIC MEDICINE**

### **TRIAL AND ERROR**

Finding out what was/was not useful in the world around them.

### **HEALTHY LIFESTYLE**

Eating healthy food. Moving around meant waste was not around them.

### **RELIGION**

Medicine men. Importance of the spirit world.

### **SURGERY**

Limited surgery. **Trephining**(shows the importance of the spirit world).

Trephined skulls have been found in most places prehistoric people lived.

Both male and female skulls have been discovered but never childrens.

Most skulls show growth around the hole which means the person lived after the procedure. The skulls and sometimes the pieces of skull taken out have been found with the entire skeleton. We do know from cave paintings that prehistorical man was spiritual and from studying primitive societies today we have learned that they think illness is caused by evil spirits.

We can not be sure why prehistoric man did this. The operation would have certainly been dangerous and painful.

## **PROBLEMS OF SURGERY**

Internal surgery was not possible on a large scale until the 20th century.

### **WHY ?**

Patients died due to lack of blood(no blood transfusion).

Patients died due to infection(no antiseptics).

Patients died due to shock from pain(no anaesthetics).

### **Trephined skulls**

Trephined skulls have been found in most places prehistoric people lived.

Both male and female skulls have been discovered but never childrens.

Most skulls show growth around the hole which means the person lived after the procedure. The skulls and sometimes the pieces of skull taken out have been found with the entire skeleton. We do know from cave paintings that prehistorical man was spiritual and from studying primitive societies today we have learned that they think illness is caused by evil spirits.

We can not be sure why prehistoric man did this. The operation would have certainly been dangerous and painful.