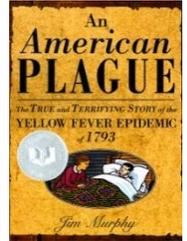


Name: _____

History Non-Fiction Summer Reading

10th Grade US History I

An American plague : the true and terrifying story of the yellow fever epidemic of 1793 by Murphy, Jim, 1947-



History, science, politics, and public health come together in this dramatic account of the disastrous yellow fever epidemic that hit the nation's capital more than 200 years ago. Drawing on firsthand accounts, medical and non-medical, Murphy re-creates the fear and panic in the infected city, the social conditions that caused the disease to spread, and the arguments about causes and cures. With archival prints, photos, contemporary newspaper facsimiles that include lists of the dead, and full, chatty source notes, he tells of those who fled and those who stayed--among them, the heroic group of free blacks who nursed the ill and were later vilified for their work. The most interesting chapters discuss what is now known of the tiny fever-carrying mosquito and the problems created by over-zealous use of pesticides. Recent struggles to contain the SARS epidemic and Ebola bring the "unshakeable unease" chillingly close.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: STUDENTS ANSWER IN WRITING.(below or separate)

DUE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

Can be used on a Reading Quiz.

This study guide is also linked on the school website.

1. What caused the "French Madness" and what did John Adams fear?
2. What were the first signs of the devastating epidemic that hit Philadelphia in 1793?
3. What did "no one notice"?
4. What are the physical signs of yellow fever and how did the city plan to deal with the epidemic?
5. What were the recommendations of the College of Physicians and how did people react?
6. How are the "Overseers and Guardians of the Poor" and "Ricketts" connected?

7. How was the Federal Government affected by the plague?
8. What became the role of the Free African Society as a result of the plague, especially the nurses?
9. How did Dr. Rush earn the title “Prince of Bleeders”?
10. Describe the successes and failures of the Bush Hill hospital?
11. Explain the “delicate situation” that faced George Washington due to the plague.
12. Identify the physical changes to Philadelphia as a result of the plague.
13. How are Walter Reed and *Aedes aegypti* connected to America building the Panama Canal?
14. What lessons can be learned from the 1793 Plague that can help a society deal with an epidemic emergency situation in the future? What steps must be taken by any community or country to limit the impacts from a disease outbreak?
15. (opinion) Thinking about epidemic outbreaks in recent years, what role should medically advanced nations, such as the United States, have in the reduction and/or prevention of epidemic outbreaks?