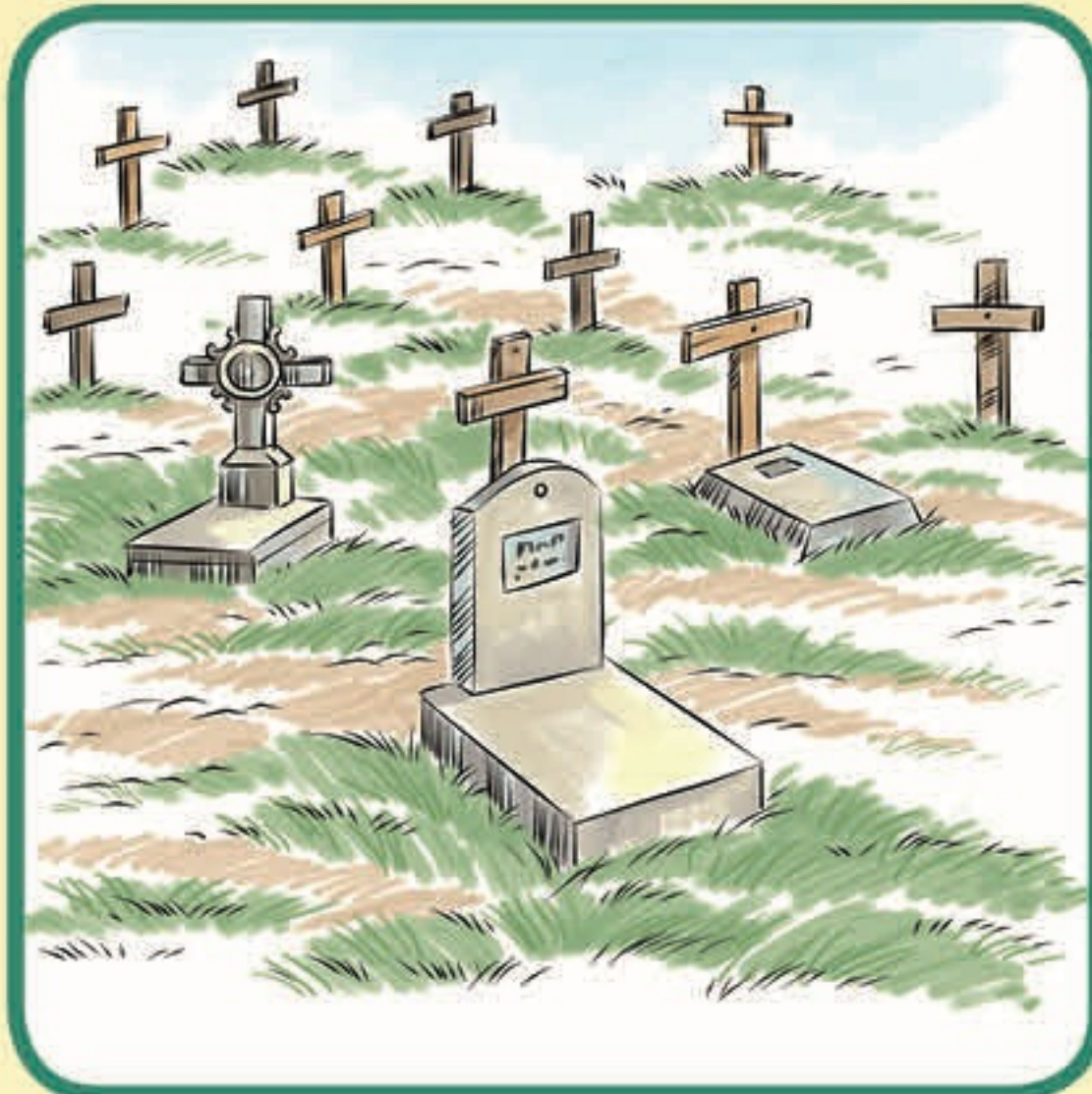
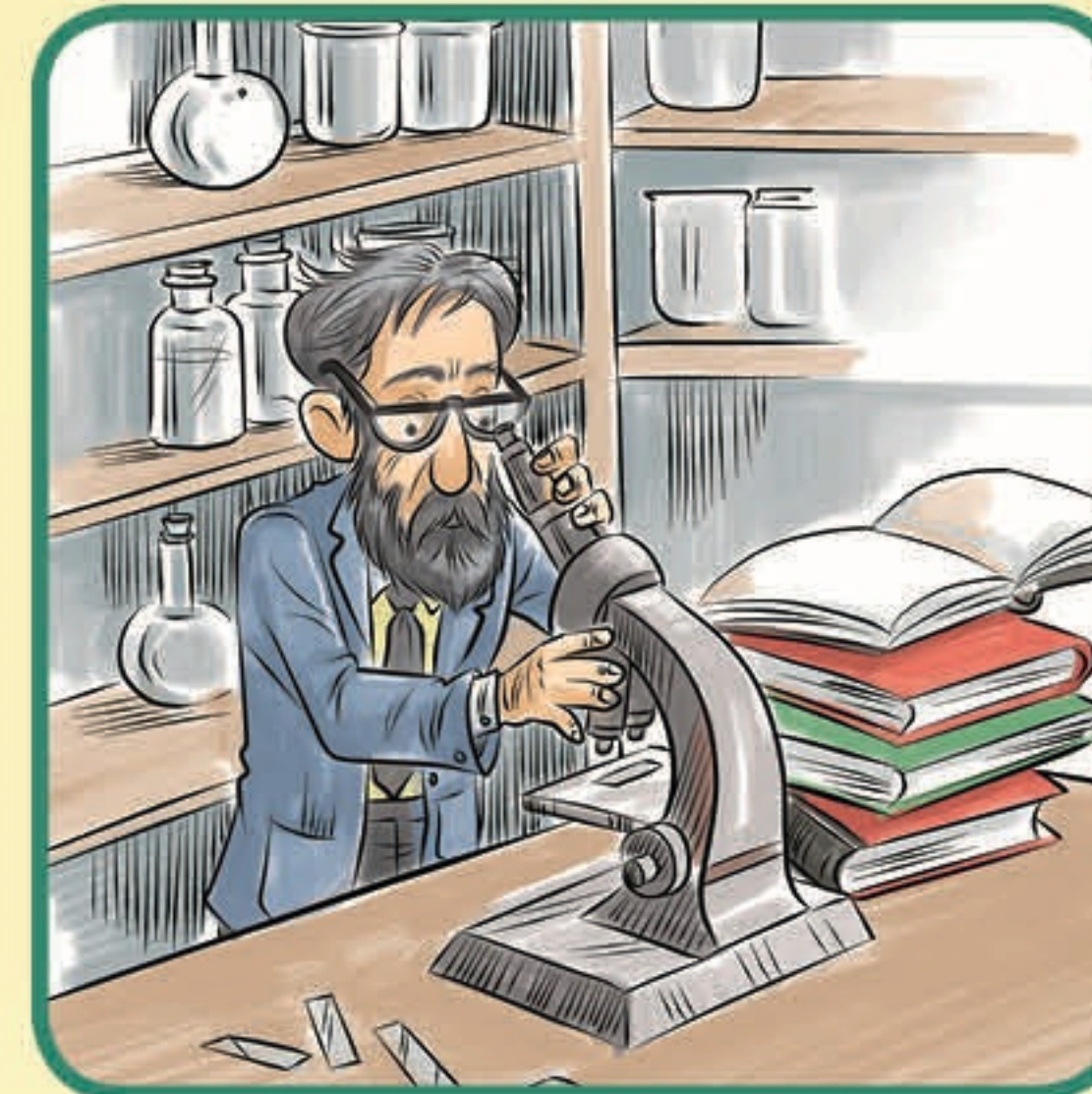


THE DISCOVERY OF THE SMALLPOX VACCINE



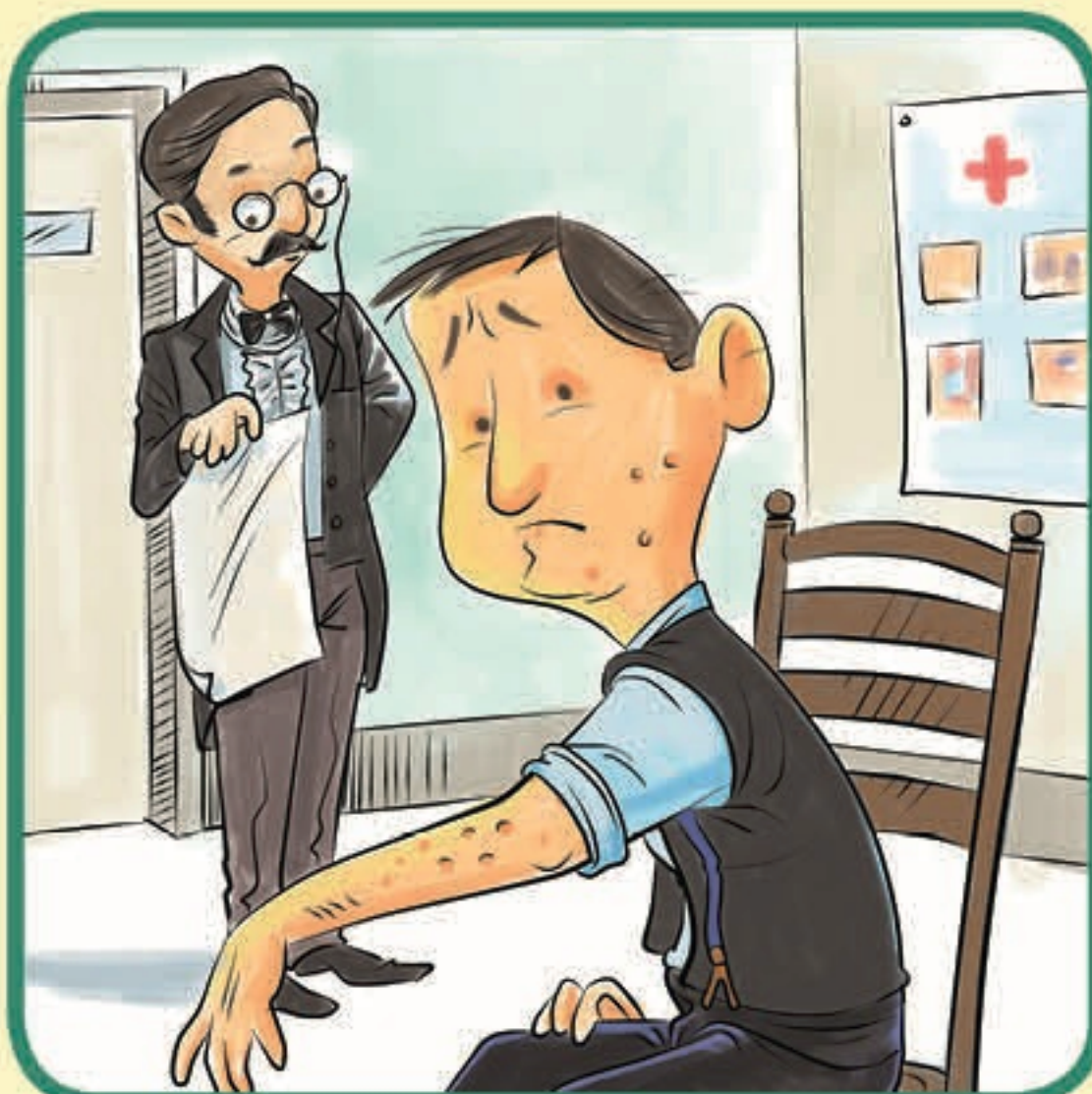
1

Smallpox was a vicious virus that spread like wild fire. Around 300 million people died of it in the 20th century.



2

Survivors were immune for the rest of their lives. In the 17th century doctors began experimenting to give people immunity by exposing them to pus from smallpox sores.



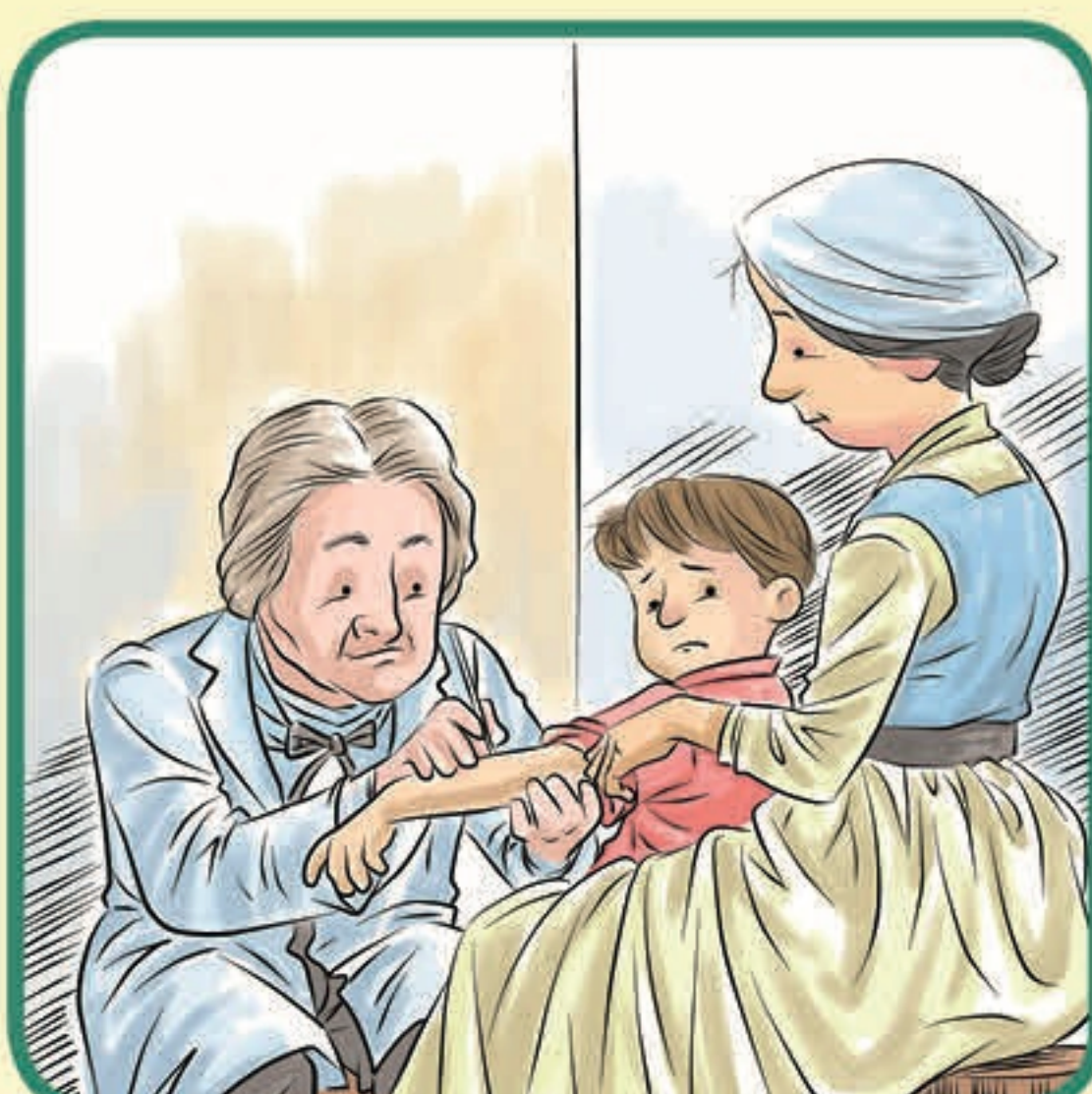
3

This worked to some degree, but sadly some people exposed to pus died or started a new outbreak.



4

Edward Jenner, a physician, noticed that dairymaids who had been exposed to the cow version of smallpox – cowpox – were also immune to disease.



5

In 1796 Jenner carried out his famous experiment and injected his gardener's young son, James Phipps, with cowpox, to see if he became immune to smallpox.



6

Lucky for Phipps it worked and he was protected. Jenner had shown that using cowpox gave people immunity to smallpox and was much safer than exposing people to the human virus.



7

Jenner's experiment was the foundation of the first global vaccination programme.



8

The last case of smallpox was in 1977. Thanks to the vaccine the disease was eradicated, saving millions of lives.