

Medicine ingredients wordsearch

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F	A	N	S	T	G	J	D	R	D	T	C	J	R
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E	T	U	R	P	E	N	T	I	F	S	H	X	M

Rhubarb
Scurvy grass
Snails

Honey
Cinnamon
Liquorice

Turpentine
Watercress
Sugar



This resource was created by Anjna Chouhan for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Learning Department www.shakespeare.org.uk



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Resource KS 3/4

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'DISCOVER'

Hall's Croft

Pupil's Booklet

This resource is designed
to help you understand
your visit to the home
of John and Susanna Hall



Hall's Croft

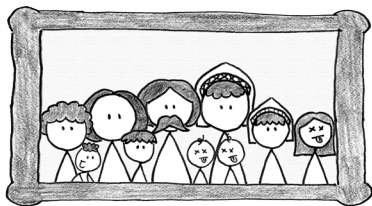
Who were John and Susanna Hall?

Susanna was William Shakespeare's eldest daughter, who married a wealthy physician, Dr John Hall, in 1607. The Halls moved into their newly built two-storey home in 1613, from which John would have practiced medicine.

Dr Hall treated a wide demographic of patients from poor to wealthy, Protestants to Catholics, and he was himself a practicing Puritan.

Upon the death of her father, Susanna inherited New Place, Shakespeare's final home in Stratford-upon-Avon, and in 1627 she and her husband sold Hall's Croft to the Smith family who remained there for several generations.

The Smiths made many alterations to the house, namely by adding an extension for a kitchen and stable, a fireplace and additional bedrooms.



John and Mary Shakespeare with their children, including William

More medicine facts

Physicians believed that the four humours were important to stay healthy: blood, yellow bile, black bile and phlegm. Imbalances in humours cause illness and personality issues.

According to this theory, angry people have too much yellow bile; individuals prone to depression possess an imbalance of black bile; obesity is caused by excess blood, and weak people have too much phlegm.

*My humour shall not cool: I will incense him to deal with poison;
I will possess him with yellowness*

The Merry Wives of Windsor, Act 1 Scene 3

To correct imbalances in the humours, or bodily fluids, Dr Hall would purge his patients by letting blood, administering an enema or inducing vomiting. Rhubarb was considered an effective purgative.

Find her disease And purge it to a sound and pristine health

Macbeth, Act 5 Scene 3

Jacobean medicine with Dr John Hall

John Hall kept case notes about his patients in Stratford-upon-Avon, and even those further afield. One such patient was the Earl of Northampton, of Ludlow Castle, who suffered from 'heat of the urine'. Ingredients used to cure the Earl included rhubarb, liquorice powder, marsh mallow and turpentine.

What rhubarb, cyme, or what purgative drug,

Would scour these English hence? *Macbeth*, Act 5 Scene 3

Severe coughs were treated with honey, juniper vapours, a drink made from snails and a stomach plaster made of roses and spices.

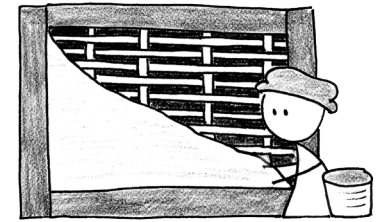
A whoreson cold, sir, a cough, sir, which I caught ringing in the King's affairs upon his coronation day, sir. *Henry IV, II*, Act 3 Scene 2

Dr Hall treated a woman called Mary Nash in 1627 for flatulence. He prescribed her a type of spiced wine, an enema and syrup made from cinnamon and the dried root of sweet myrtle.

Scurvy, a lack of vitamin C, was a common condition throughout the Tudor and Jacobean periods. It was treated with a drink made of brooklime, watercress, scurvy grass, sugar and ale.

Hall's Croft fun facts

- Hall's Croft is a Jacobean house made from oak beams filled in with wattle (woven hazel sticks) and daub (a mixture of mud, clay, dung, straw and hair).



Wattle and Daub

- The entrance hall is an original part of the 1613 building with stone floor which was an important sign of wealth. The fireplace is also original, indicating that this was used as a separate room, perhaps for dining.
- The parlour was the main room in the house and included the front entrance which is marked now by the small square window. This room is designed to impress any visitors so that they'd know how wealthy the family was.

- In Dr Hall's consulting room he would have diagnosed patients by examining their urine. Can you see the painting on the wall? That is called 'Casting the Water' and it provides us with a good indication of how Dr Hall would have checked for illness and infections.



John Hall in his dispensary

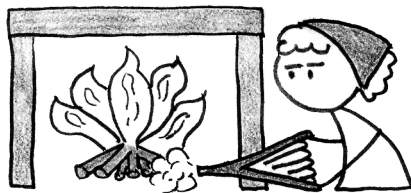
More facts...

- The kitchen that you see in the house was added in the 1630s. Tudor kitchens were usually separate from the house to avoid outbreaks of fire.



Susanna cooking pottage

- To prevent fires from occurring, the Guild Chapel rang a bell at ten minutes to eight every evening letting the residents of Stratford know that it was time to cover their fires so that only the embers would burn until morning.
- The “close stool” you see in the bedroom is essentially a posh 17th century toilet. The chamber pot would have fitted inside the box, and the circular stopper and box lid helped to disguise the box’s purpose. This type of “close stool” would have been owned by a wealthy family.

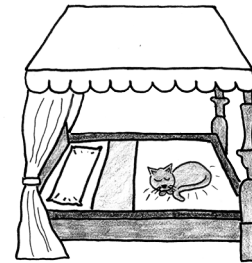


Preparing the fire

- To disguise unpleasant smells around the house, people would leave out or carry around pomanders which were portable perfume balls.



Pomanders were Tudor potpourri



Tester bed

- Fancy beds were covered by a tester, or canopy. If you were wealthy enough to own a tester you probably wouldn't have a thatched roof on your home (they were for the poorer houses).
- The Hall family had 7-10 servants living with them. The bedroom that you see is decorated as it would have been for a high-ranking servant such as the wet-nurse or apothecary.
- Glass was expensive which is why windows, if there were any, were very small. Home owners who could afford windows transported the glass with them when they moved house.



Glass window