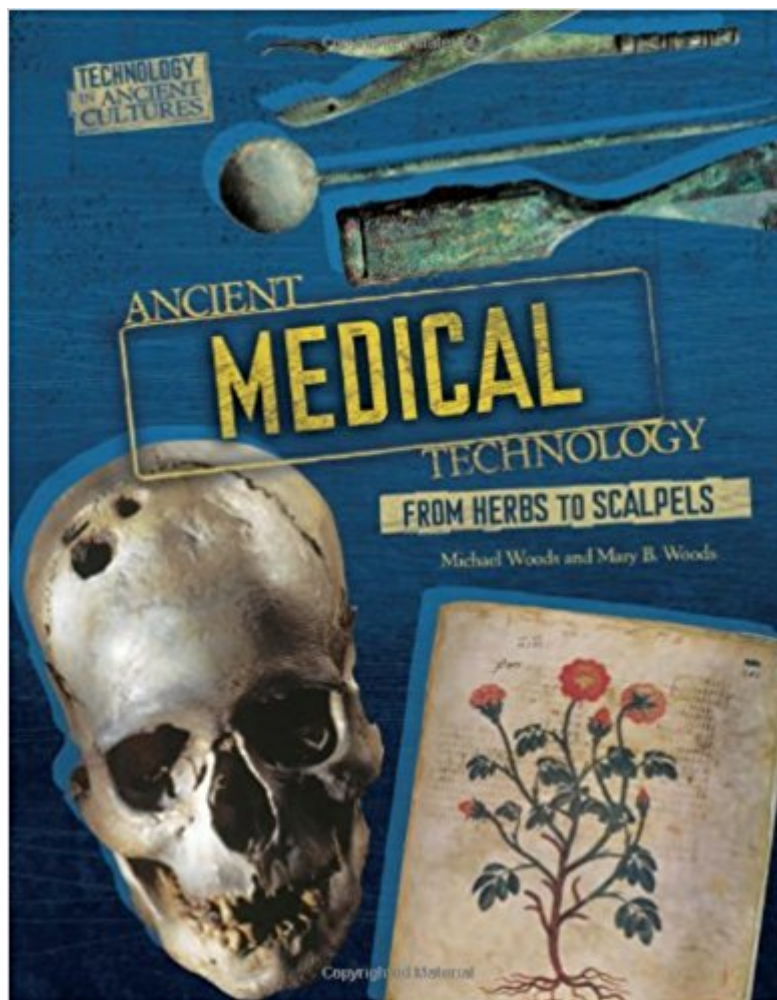




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# Ancient Medical Technology: From Herbs To Scalpels (Technology In Ancient Cultures)



## Synopsis

Did you know . . . Doctors in ancient Peru performed brain surgery? Ancient Greek doctors ran medical schools? The ancient Indians knew how to protect people from smallpox? Medical technology is as old as human society itself. The first humans on Earth used simple healing techniques. They developed ways to set broken bones. They learned which plants were good for treating colds, headaches, and stomachaches. Over the centuries, ancient peoples learned more about medicine. The ancient Indians performed plastic surgery. The ancient Romans operated on people's eyes. People in many ancient cultures wrote medical textbooks. What kinds of tools and techniques did ancient doctors use? Which of their remedies worked and which ones didn't? And how did ancient medicine set the stage for our own modern medical technology? Learn more in Ancient Medical Technology.

## Book Information

Series: Technology in Ancient Cultures

Library Binding: 96 pages

Publisher: Twenty-First Century Books (March 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761365222

ISBN-13: 978-0761365228

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 7.1 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #869,519 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Books > Teens >

Education & Reference > History > Ancient #124 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference >

Science & Technology > Technology #615 in Books > Teens > Personal Health

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 - 10

## Customer Reviews

Mary B. Woods is an elementary school librarian in the Fairfax County (VA) Public School system. She has presented at international librarians' conferences. Mary is the researcher on the Woods team, and Michael is the writer. They have written almost 40 books.

Thanks

In their second book in the \*Ancient Medical Technology\* series, award-winning authors Michael Woods and Mary B. Woods show how earlier cultures "did a lot with a little:" Ancient doctors did not have X-ray machines or microscopes. They did not have drugstores full of medicines. But they had as much curiosity and creativity as modern doctors and scientists. With very few tools to help them, ancient healers accomplished great things." This well-researched medical history for young people is a fascinating read, covering the ancient cultures of Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, China, Greece, Rome and the Americas, and ending with a short epilogue about medicine today. Beginning with perhaps the first known doctor, Imhotep the pyramid-builder in 2600 BC, and traveling down through history, \*Ancient Medical Technology\* thoroughly explores familiar subjects, and introduces some unlikely and tantalizing lesser-known information as well. Young readers will discover important contributions from Galen and Hippocrates; they will learn how many potent and effective plants available to early healers form the basis of our modern pharmacopeia. The Roman sanitation system of aqueducts, and a treasure trove of medical instruments unearthed from volcanic ash in Pompeii are among the many interesting stories presented. The reader will also encounter startling facts about ancient cataract removal, brain surgery via skull trepanation, plastic surgery to replace noses missing in battle, and ant suturing -- a procedure whereby live ants were fastened onto intestinal ruptures, "stapling" the rent tissues together until the body had time to heal itself and absorb the insect bodies. Superstitions and medical failures of earlier times are mentioned as well, for example, the medieval practice of placing dead mice on infected wounds.\*Ancient Medical Technology is an excellent introduction to the history of medicine. The authors have put together a compelling book in an easy-to-access format with exciting photos and eye-catching layouts. The writing is factual and clear, with just enough "gross-out" factor to keep young readers engaged. A timeline has been included for ease and clarity, along with a glossary and a list of books and websites for further research.\*Ancient Medicine: From Sorcery to Surgery (Ancient Technology)

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