

Twilight Sleep: The Discovery of Anesthesia

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## Twilight Sleep

Both Josiah and I have an interest in the medical field and were very curious about the discovery of anesthesia. Many members in our family, including ourselves, have had surgery and had to be put under anesthesia, and we both wanted a deeper understanding about it.

For our research, we used many different articles online. Some of the most useful sources were the Medical pages and woodlibrary.org. The medical pages provided a lot of information and statistics on anesthesia itself. They went into depth on anesthesia, the tools both then and now, and also what it does. Wood Library gave us a timeline on the tools from as early as the 1600's to now in the 2000's. It showed us the crazy things they used as anesthesia, and the tools that they had to use in order to inject the patient. All sources were very reliable and gave us the information needed to get a deeper understanding of both the process and the discovery of anesthesia.

Our understanding on our project has changed significantly throughout all of our research. Neither of us knew about all the different techniques that they used. We were both amazed and shocked that hypnotism was one of the many techniques used in the earlier days. Also, it was amazing to find out that patient could "wake up" during their surgery! Before our research, we thought that anesthesia was completely safe and that just anyone could use it. When we both had our surgery, we had no problems with anesthetics, we assumed that that's how it worked for everyone else. To find out that some patients can't take anesthesia was crazy to us. We couldn't imagine needing surgery, and not being able to be under anesthesia. Yes, there are alternatives, but anesthesia is the best way to go.

We put our presentation together online on a website. Both of us did our research together, went through many websites, and chose the best information and the most repeated. With it being repeated, we knew that it was the most accurate. The skills we used were going through all of the different websites and choosing the best information. Some skills that we learned was how to use the new website that NHD provided.

Some of the research problems we had was going through all of the information and picking the best that we thought would successfully demonstrate the importance of anesthesia in our project. A huge challenge was trying to figure out the website. It was very difficult to use and it also was very different from the one from previous years.

Our project, *Twilight Sleep: The Discovery of Anesthesia* relates to the NHD theme because various doctors had to break barriers through both the public and the many trials they had to go through to get a product that would be effective.