

Celebrating the NHS

What Is the NHS?

NHS stands for National Health Service: a group of organisations that provide medical care for people living in the UK. They help those who are feeling unwell or are injured.

Did You Know...?

Around 1.5 million people work together to make up the NHS. Every person and every role is important and by working together they create a successful health system for the country.



How Did the NHS Start?

Before the NHS was founded, only wealthy people could afford to go to hospital or get medical help. Every visit to a doctor or dentist would cost the person money. If the person could not afford it then they did not get the medicine or the treatment.

The UK government wanted to make things better for the nation after the Second World War. In 1948, the National Health Service was started by **Health Minister** Aneurin Bevan to keep everyone in the UK healthy.

Why Is Our NHS Special?

The NHS was designed so that every person who lived in the United Kingdom could receive free medical help, treatment and advice. However, running the NHS is expensive and the government can't afford to pay for everything. So, every working adult pays taxes to the government which are then used to pay for the NHS and its staff.

People celebrate the NHS because they feel lucky to have it in the UK. In other countries, people pay **health insurance**. People who can't afford this insurance would not be able to receive medical care when they need it. There are also places in the world where the care that you receive will be of a lesser quality if you have less money.

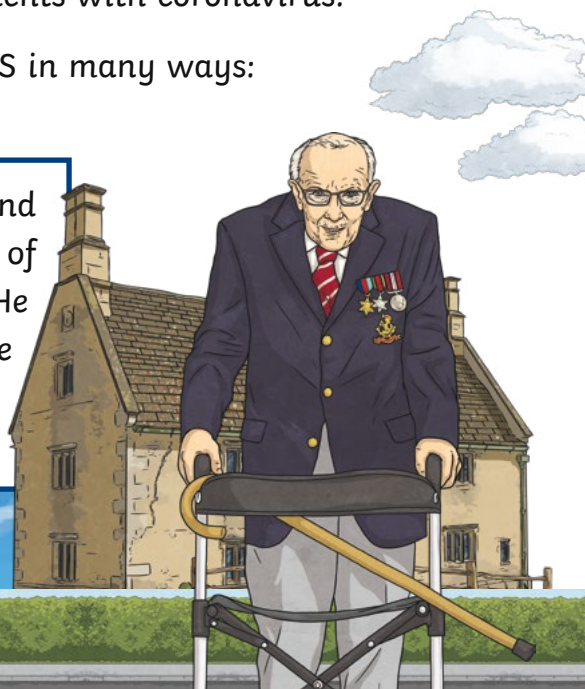


How Have We Been Celebrating Our NHS?

During the global coronavirus **pandemic**, people were especially thankful for the bravery of NHS workers who have worked hard to save the lives of those who became ill with the **virus**. 17 temporary hospitals were set up around the UK by the NHS during the pandemic to care for patients with coronavirus.

The British people said 'thank you' to the NHS in many ways:

Sir Captain Tom Moore became famous around the world when he walked 100 lengths of his garden using his walking frame. He challenged himself to complete this before his 100th birthday and raised £32m for NHS charities.



During lockdown, families were told to stay at home to prevent the spread of the virus. Children and their families put rainbows in their windows as a way of spreading hope and thanking the NHS for their amazing work.



Every Thursday at 8 p.m., people stood outside their homes and clapped and cheered for the NHS. They did this to show their appreciation to the NHS and other **key workers** for working hard during the pandemic.



Glossary

health insurance:

People pay money to a company that will pay for your medical treatment.

Health Minister:

A person in the government who is in charge of the health department.

key workers:

People who carry out jobs which are essential to keep the country running, for example: teachers, police, fire service, delivery drivers and shop workers.

pandemic:

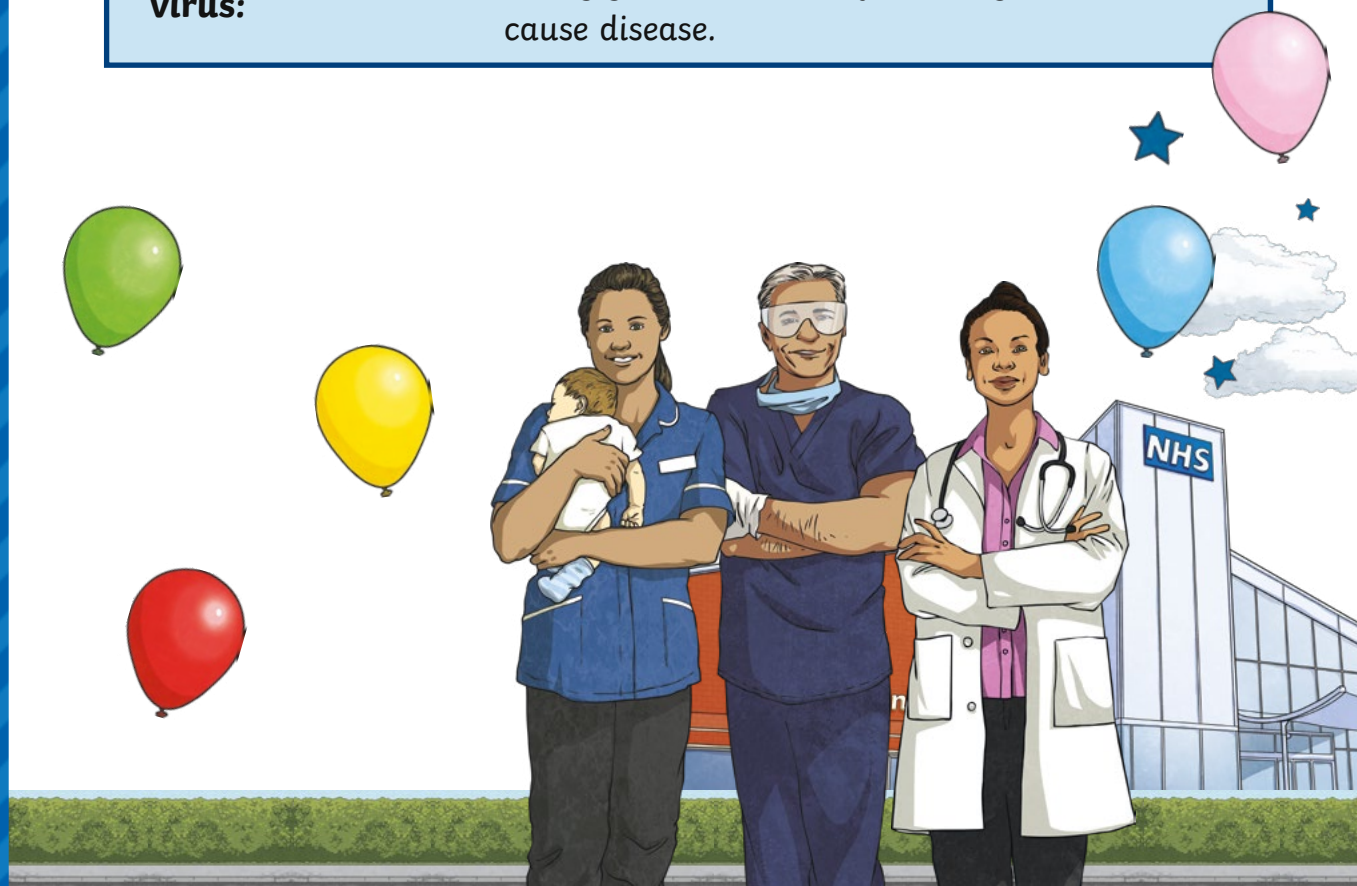
A disease which has spread across lots of countries or the whole world.

taxes:

Money collected by the government to pay for things that the country needs such as schools, roads and the NHS.

virus:

A tiny germ that can infect living creatures and cause disease.



Questions

1. What does NHS stand for? Tick one.

National Health System

Natural Health Service

National Health Service

National Hygiene Service

2. Select the correct options to match each number to its statement.

1.5 million

a

100

b

1948

c

£32m

d

The year that the NHS was founded.

The number of staff working in the NHS.

The age of Sir Captain Tom Moore when he walked 100 laps of his garden.

The amount of money that Sir Captain Tom Moore raised for the NHS.

3. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'rich'.

4. Who has the author written this text for?

5. What does the word 'temporary' imply about the 17 hospitals which were set up during the pandemic?

6. Why did the author choose the phrase 'He challenged himself...' to describe Sir Captain Tom Moore's fundraising event.
7. How is healthcare different in the UK compared to other countries?
8. How might we celebrate the NHS in the future?

Celebrating the NHS

What Is the NHS?

NHS stands for National Health Service: a group of organisations that provide medical care for people living in the UK. They support those who are feeling unwell or are injured.

It is estimated that there are 1.5 million people working as part of the NHS carrying out a variety of roles. Every person and every role is crucial in creating a successful health system in the country.



When Was the NHS Founded?

Before the NHS was founded, only wealthy people could afford to go to a hospital or get medical help. Every visit to a doctor or dentist would cost the person money. If the person could not afford it, they did not receive the treatment that they needed.

Aneurin Bevan decided to change things. After the Second World War, Aneurin Bevan was chosen to be the Minister of Health in the government. He founded the National Health Service on 5th July 1948. The Health Minister wanted a system which provided medical care that was free for everyone who lived in the UK. He wanted all people to be treated equally.

Why Is Our NHS Special?

The NHS was designed so that every person who lived in the United Kingdom could receive free medical help, treatment and advice. However, running the NHS is expensive so every working adult pays **taxes** which fund the NHS and pay wages to NHS staff.

Many people consider themselves lucky to have the NHS in the UK. In some parts of the world, people without **health insurance** or who can't afford treatment would not be able to receive medical care. There are also places where the care that you receive when you are ill will be of a lesser quality if you have less money.

How Did the NHS Respond to the Coronavirus Pandemic?

During the global coronavirus (COVID-19) **pandemic**, NHS staff were praised for their bravery and self-sacrifice. Doctors, cleaners and other healthcare workers have risked their own lives to care for other people.

A total of 17 buildings around the UK were converted into hospital facilities to treat people with coronavirus. Many professionals (who had left or retired from the NHS) were asked to return to help.

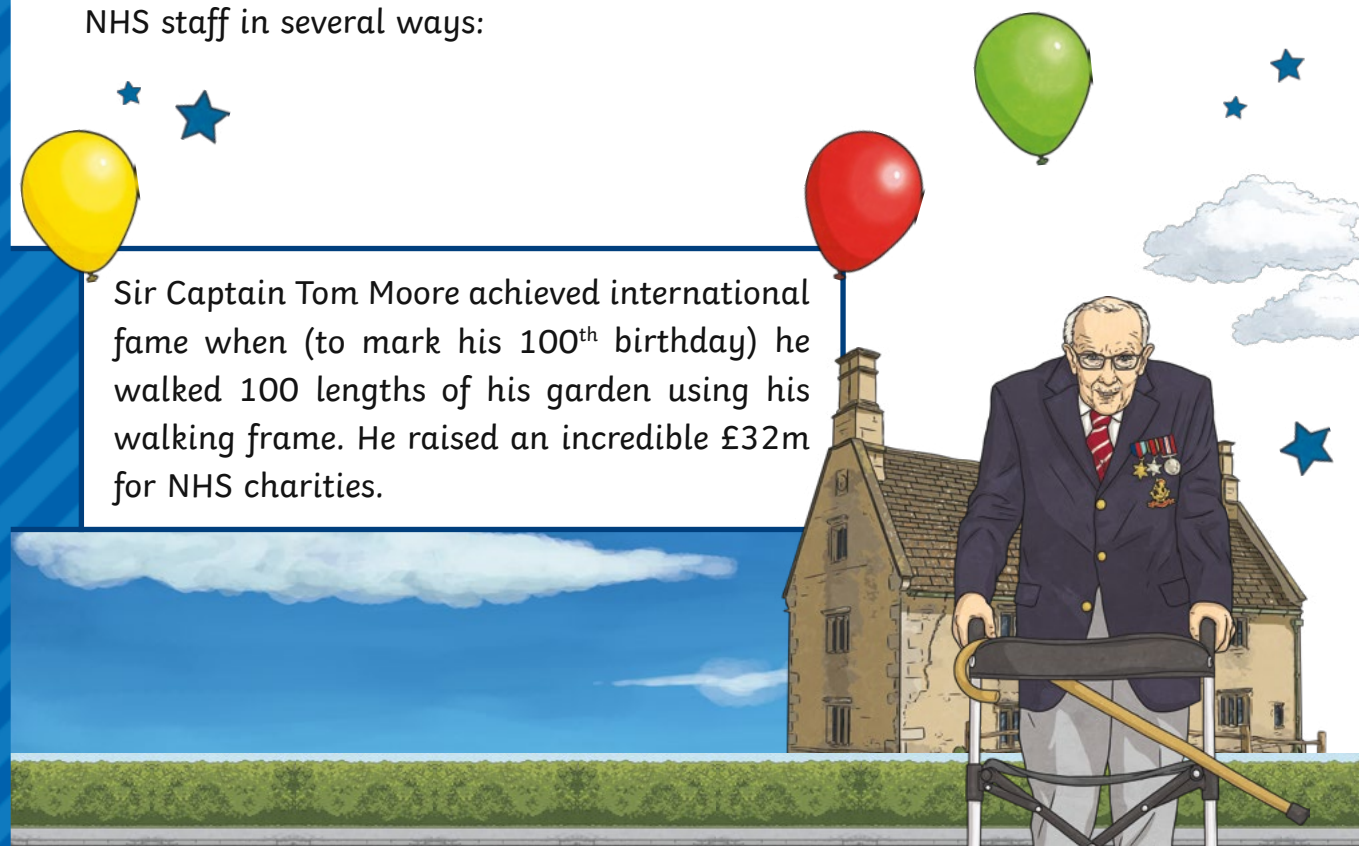
It took only nine days to transform the Excel Centre in London (a place where events were usually held) into a specialist coronavirus hospital. The hospital was named The Nightingale Hospital and was equipped to deal with 4,000 patients.



How Have We Been Celebrating Our NHS?

During the coronavirus **pandemic**, the British people showed their gratitude for NHS staff in several ways:

Sir Captain Tom Moore achieved international fame when (to mark his 100th birthday) he walked 100 lengths of his garden using his walking frame. He raised an incredible £32m for NHS charities.



During lockdown, families stayed at home (except for in emergencies) to stop the spread of the **virus**. Children and their families displayed rainbows in their windows as a way of spreading hope and thanking the NHS for their amazing work.



Every Thursday evening at 8 p.m., people took to their doorsteps to clap and cheer for the NHS. This was to show their appreciation for the key workers who were going to work and keeping everyone safe.



Glossary

health insurance:

People pay money (called a premium) each month to an insurance company. If you become ill for any reason, the insurance company will pay for the cost of the treatment.

pandemic:

A disease which has spread across lots of countries or the whole world.

taxes:

Money collected by the government to pay for things that the country needs such as schools, roads and the NHS.

virus:

A tiny germ that can infect living creatures and cause disease.

Questions

1. How many people are estimated to work for the NHS? Tick one.

32 million

1.5 million

15 million

3 million

2. What does the word 'global' mean? Tick one.

in the UK

in Europe

in London

in the whole world

3. Explain why Aneurin Bevan founded the NHS.

4. Find and copy a phrase which shows that NHS staff were doing a dangerous job during the coronavirus pandemic.

5. Fill in the missing words.

A total of 17 buildings around the UK were
treat people with .

into hospital facilities to

6. How might we celebrate the NHS in the future?

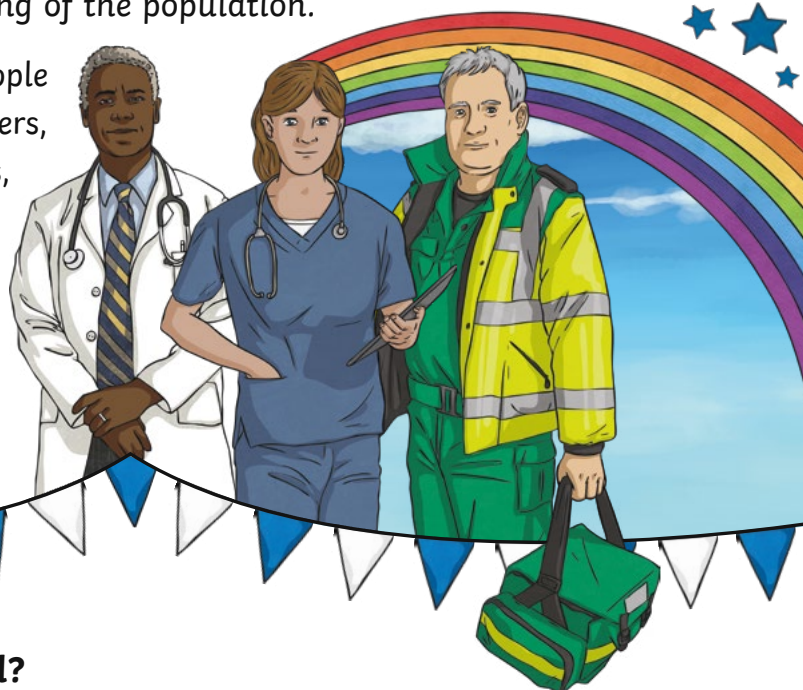
7. Why do you think that so many people helped Sir Captain Tom Moore to raise over £32m?
8. Which is the most important section in the text? Justify your choice.
9. Summarise what you have learnt about the NHS in 25 words or fewer.

Celebrating the NHS

What Is the NHS?

The initialism NHS stands for National Health Service: a group of organisations that provide medical care for people living in the UK. Staff working for the NHS support the health and wellbeing of the population.

An estimated 1.5 million people work for the NHS including: cleaners, cooks, doctors, nurses, midwives, office staff and paramedics. Every single person's role is important for the NHS to work effectively as a health system for the country.



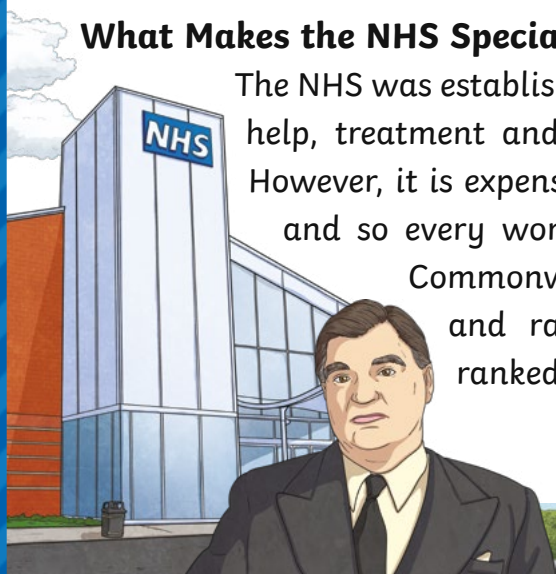
When Was the NHS Founded?

Before the founding of the NHS, only affluent people could afford to access hospital care or seek medical help; every visit to a healthcare professional would cost money. Therefore, many people did not have access to the medical care that they needed.

After the Second World War, Aneurin Bevan became the Minister of Health in the Labour government. He started the National Health Service on 5th July 1948. Mr Bevan wanted a system which provided medical care that was free for everyone to access within the UK.

What Makes the NHS Special?

The NHS was established to ensure that everyone could access medical help, treatment and advice regardless of their financial situation. However, it is expensive to provide medical care for a whole country and so every working adult pays taxes to the government. The Commonwealth Fund conducted a study of 11 countries and ranked each healthcare system: the NHS was ranked first for quality of care and efficiency.



Many people consider themselves lucky to have access to the NHS in the UK. While there are some countries which have government-funded healthcare, other nations operate very differently. In some parts of the world, people without insurance (or who can't afford treatment) would not be able to access medical care. There are also places where the quality of care you receive will be dependent on what you can afford.

How Did the NHS Respond to the Coronavirus Pandemic?

During the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, NHS staff were praised for their bravery and self-sacrifice. Doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers have risked their own lives to care for other people.

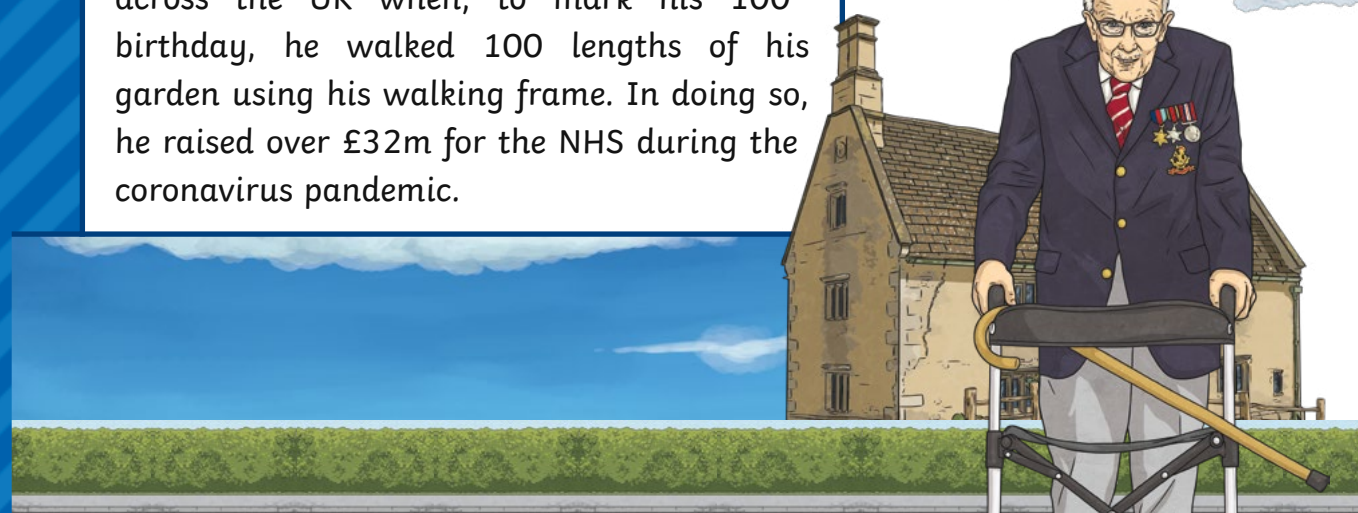
A total of 17 buildings around the UK were converted into hospital facilities to deal with the pandemic. Many professionals (who had left or retired from the NHS) were asked to return to help.

How Have We Been Celebrating Our NHS?

During the coronavirus pandemic, the British people showed their gratitude towards NHS staff in several ways.



Sir Captain Tom Moore became renowned across the UK when, to mark his 100th birthday, he walked 100 lengths of his garden using his walking frame. In doing so, he raised over £32m for the NHS during the coronavirus pandemic.





During what was referred to as 'lockdown', families were advised to stay home to prevent the spread of the virus. People could only leave their homes once a day for exercise and were instructed not to meet with anyone from outside their own household. Children and their families made and displayed rainbows in their homes as a way of spreading hope and thanking the NHS for their amazing work.

At 8 p.m. on Thursday evenings, a round of applause could be heard across the nation as people clapped and cheered for the NHS from their doorsteps. Some found other creative ways of making noise such as banging saucepans, beeping car horns and playing instruments. This was to show their appreciation for the key workers who were going to work to keep everyone safe.



What Might the Future Hold for the NHS?

The NHS costs the country around £153 bn every year. Over recent years, there has been a lot of debate amongst politicians as to whether or not the NHS should be privatised. Privatisation is when a service is no longer run by the government but by private companies (the rail service has been privatised). Those in favour of privatisation argue that people are now living around 13 years longer than they did when the NHS was established: the NHS is becoming more expensive to operate.



Questions

1. What was Aneurin Bevan's job title? Tick one.

politician

Minister for the NHS

doctor

Minister for Health

2. Select the correct options to match each word to its definition.

health insurance

a

When a service is no longer run by the government but by private companies.

pandemic

b

A disease which has spread to lots of countries.

privatisation

c

The government-funded healthcare system for people in the UK.

National Health Service

d

The money people pay to companies to cover the cost of medical care.

3. Who has the author written this text for?

4. Find and copy one word which shows that the NHS staff put the needs of others before their own.

5. Who conducted the study in which the NHS ranked the highest for quality of care?

6. How is healthcare different in the UK compared to other countries?
7. Which is the most important section in the text? Justify your choice.
8. Summarise how the NHS dealt with the coronavirus pandemic in 25 words or fewer.
9. Why do you think so many people helped Sir Captain Tom Moore to raise over £32m for NHS charities?
10. Explain in no more than 50 words what makes the NHS worth celebrating.