

What Do You Know?

A Brief History of Mental Health Institutions

Think about the following questions with your partner(s). Discuss the possible answers, using what you've learned so far in the class to help you make logical, rational responses. Justify your responses the best you can (no guesses – think about what you know to make educated responses).

1. When (approximately) did the earliest facilities for treating mental illness in the United States open? In Europe?
2. What group(s) in the United States opened/ran these facilities?
3. What were believed to be the causes of mental illness at this time?
4. What were some treatments at this time? How did these reflect prevailing beliefs about mental illness at the time?
5. How is mental illness defined and diagnosed today in the United States and Europe?
6. What are some typical therapies today? What are some “alternative” therapies?

