

Clues for Jonas Salk

1. At four years of age, he watched the wounded and injured soldiers returning from World War I and was deeply touched, wanting to help them.
2. When his friends played games, he often read, so they would ask him to referee because he was fair and knew the rules.
3. His parents fled Lithuania and Russia to escape religious persecution.
4. His mother, Dora, had little formal education and learned English after coming to America, but she could read and write only Yiddish when he was a child.
5. Because his father worked as a lacemaker, he was often out of work, and the family was poor.
6. His parents taught him the importance of education, kindness, and doing good works.
7. At the City College of New York, where tuition was free, he discovered his passion for chemistry. Earned his M.D. From New York University
8. At the University of Michigan, he and Dr. Thomas Francis Jr. researched a medicine called a vaccine to protect people from the flu, which in 1918 killed millions of people around the world.

9. In 1947 he took a position at the University of Pittsburgh and four years later developed a “killed virus” vaccine for polio, which he administered to himself, his wife, and sons.
10. Next, the March of Dimes Foundation provided funding for the testing of almost two million children who were called the Polio Pioneers to make sure the vaccine was safe for everyone.
11. Because of his research and the development of a polio vaccine, the disease is quite rare today, and he is considered one of the leading scientists of the 20th century.
12. In 1963 he launched his own research organization known as the Salk Center for Biological Studies in California.