

Surrounding knowledge, from intriguing detail to ideas about place and period

**Plague originating
in the Gobi Desert
in Asia**

**Impact of the
plague on the
clergy**

**Spread of the
Plague along
trade routes**

Core knowledge, the
absolute fundamental stuff we want
every kid to learn and remember

**Impact of the
plague on the
labour force**

How did the Black Death change England?

**The origin of the Black Death, symptoms of the
Black Death, beliefs about the cause, cures for the
plague and the impact on society**

**Breakdown of
the Feudal
system**

**The cycle of
infection**

**Ring-a-Ring o' Roses
nursery rhyme**

**Role of religion
during the
plague**

"Quack" medicine

**The Statute of
Labourers and
the Peasants
Revolt**

100%

Instability and new ideas: Did the Black Death bring “distinctive benefits for ordinary

Background information

The Black Death originated in China in the early to mid-1300s and spread along trade routes westward to Northern Africa and the Mediterranean. It reached southern England in 1348 and northern Britain and Scandinavia by 1350. It was caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis* and was transmitted from rodents to humans by the bite of infected fleas.

Key knowledge 1: What were the symptoms of the Black Death?

Day 1 Painful swellings called buboes appeared in the victim's armpits and groin. These were usually about the size of an egg, but could sometimes be as big as an apple.

Day 2 The victim vomited and developed a fever.

Day 3 Bleeding under the skin caused dark blotches all over the body.

Day 4 The disease attacked the nervous system. This caused the victim to suffer spasms. The victim was in terrible pain.

Day 5 Sometimes the buboes burst and a foul-smelling black liquid oozed from the open boils. When this happened the victim usually lived. However, in most cases the victim suffered a painful death.

Keywords

- Plague
- Buboes
- Pestilence
- Contagious
- Flagellants
- Rats

Key knowledge 2:

How did people try to cure the Black Death?

- Cutting their buboes off and draining the pus
- Smell herbs and spices to get rid of the 'bad air'
- Allow leaches to suck their blood
- Flagellants would torture themselves
- Eat a teaspoon of crushed emeralds
- Eat ten year old treacle.

Key knowledge 3:

What did people think caused the Black Death?

People didn't know the real cause of the Plague. Some believed it was caused by:

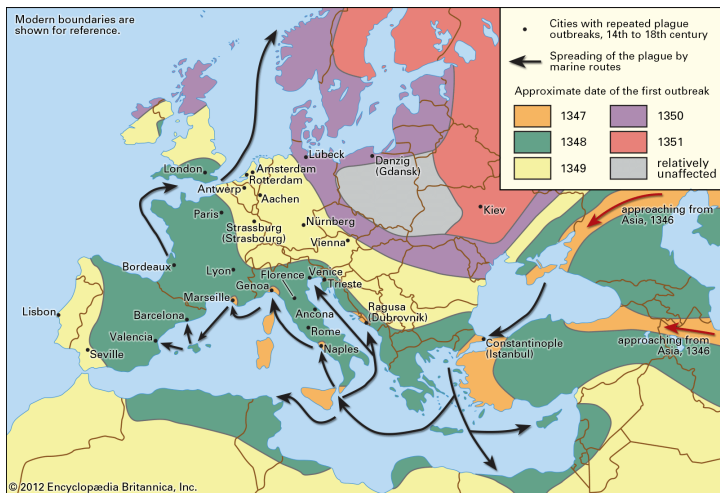
- God
- Miasma (in the air)
- Position of the planets
- The Jews

Key knowledge 4:

How did the Black death Change Society?

- Caused labour shortages– with fewer people available for work survivors demanded higher wages
- Weakened the Feudal system– people no longer feared the consequences of disobeying their Lord

Timeline



Secondary interpretation/ debate about period

“Such a dramatic and sustained fall in population levels brought **distinct benefits for ordinary people**. On the whole, English men and women ate more meat and dairy produce than before and, in a rental market that favoured tenants rather than landlords, they were able to afford better quality housing. The sanitary reforms introduced by urban authorities also made towns and cities cleaner and more pleasant places to live – or at least aimed to do so.” Professor Carol Rawcliffe

