

History Subject Knowledge Bank

Year 2: The Black Death

<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Argument	Different points of view
Locality	From the local area
Chronological	In order of when something happened
Black Death	A disease from the Middle Ages
Contribution	The part played by something or someone
Primary evidence	Information produced from the period studied
Secondary evidence	Information produced about the period studied but not from the time of the period studied.
Events	Things that have happened
Achievements	Something done successfully
Identify	Indicate what something is



What was the Black Death?

- The Black Death is the name for a terrible disease that spread throughout Europe from 1348 to 1350.
- There was no cure for the disease and it was highly contagious.
- The plague likely started in Asia and travelled westward along the Silk Road.
- The disease was carried by fleas that lived on rats. Historians think that black rats living on European merchant ships caught the disease, eventually bringing it to Europe.

What was the impact of the Black Death?

- Life was scary in the Middle Ages during the Black Death.
- It had killed at least one third of the people in Europe and probably more. In Paris, France it's estimated that around 800 people died in a day.
- There were so many dead that they couldn't bury them. They had to carry the bodies to massive pits.
- The people in the Middle Ages didn't know that the disease was carried by rats.
- This made larger cities and towns, which were very dirty during the Middle Ages, especially dangerous as there were lots of rats there.
- Sometimes entire towns or villages were wiped out by the plague

How did people in the Middle Ages try to cure the Black Death?

- Drinking 10 year old treacle or vinegar.
- Give medicine to bring on a fever.
- Bloodletting.
- Drinking crushed emeralds or pearls.
- Live in a sewer.
- Whipping yourself.
- Rub a live chicken on your body.
- Quarantine for at least 40 days.
- Rubbing onions, chopped up herbs or snakes on your body.

The Black Death today

- Today we call this disease the Bubonic Plague.
- Very few people get the disease today and most of those that do recover fine.
- When people got the disease in the Middle Ages, they almost always died.
- People would get really sick including black and blue blotches all over their body.