Medieval Europe: The Black Death

# Year 8: Web-quest

Follow the instructions and links to answer each of the questions about the Black Death.

Take a look at the PDF provided, read the information and answer the following questions:  
  
1. What other two names is the Black Death known by?

2. What fraction of the British population was killed by the Black Death?  
  
3. How many people were killed?   
  
4. How many dogs were killed?  
  
5. How many cats were killed?   
  
6. What contributed to London having "ideal conditions for the plague to spread"?  
  
7. Why do you think people required a certificate of health to enter other towns or cities?  
  
8. Why did the Lord Mayor of  London order the dogs and cats be destroyed?   
  
9. What did a house marked with a red cross mean?

Use the link "Ducksters: The Black Death Plague" and read the information provided, to answer the following questions:  
  
1. When did the Black Death spread throughout Europe?   
  
2. What was, in summary, the Black Death?   
  
3. Define: contagious  
  
4. Where do historians believe the plague started?   
  
5. How do they believe it travelled to Europe?   
  
6. How was the disease carried?   
  
7. How many people, is it estimated, were killed by the Black Death a day in Paris, France?   
   
8. How long did it take for Europe to re-build?

Use the link "A Student's Guide to the Bubonic Plague" and read the information provided, to answer the following questions:  
  
1. Where and when was the Bubonic Plague believed to have started?   
  
2. What kept the bacteria blamed for the plague dormant for several years?  
  
3. Describe the process of the plague spreading  
  
4. List some symptoms of the Black Death  
  
5. What was different in the Middle Ages to today that contributed to the high death rates at the time of the plague?

HOMEWORK TASK 1:   
  
Watch the video "Horrible Histories- The Great Plague" to the left and answer the following questions:  
  
1. What did King Charles III do when the great plague hit London?   
  
2. What did the Bishops think caused the great plague?  
  
3. What was the doctor's medical advice to plague victims?  
  
4. What were some of the theories for the spread of the plague in London in 1665?

Use the link: "The Silk Road" and read the information provided, to answer the following questions:  
  
1. What was the Silk Road?  
  
2. Why was it named this?   
  
3. How might the black death have travelled via the Silk Road?

Using the link "Interactive Map of the Black Death", read information and answer the following questions:  
  
1. Where did the plague first arrive?   
  
2. Which areas were affected simultaneously by the plague?  
  
3. Using the map on the worksheet provided, trace the paths of the black death (red, blue and yellow)  
  
4. When did the plague arrive in London England?  
  
5. Where was the last place that the plague infected?



Take a look at the PDF provided, read the information and use it to complete the crossword below

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Using the link "The Middle Ages for Kids" and the information provided, answer the following questions:  
  
1. Which common nursery rhyme is about the Black Death?   
  
2. Break down the song into your own words:  
  
"Ring around the rosey"  
  
"Pocket full of posey"  
  
"Ashes, Ashes"  
  
"We all fall down"

Take a look at this piece of art from the 15th century, titled: "Flagellants", and answer the following questions:  
  
  
1. Would you consider this to be a Primary or Secondary source? Why?  
  
2. Describe the mood of this piece. What clues from the image are you using to discern this?   
  
3. Use the link "Wiki Spaces: Black Death" to answer the following questions:  
  
4. Who were the Flagellants?  
  
5. What were they doing?   
  
6. How were the Flagellants' actions linked to their primary beliefs surrounding the causes of the plague?

HOMEWORK TASK 2:  
  
Watch the video "Horrible Histories: The Great Plague & Plague Song" and complete the activity that follows:  
  
1. Have a go at writing your own story, song, poem about the Black Plague.   
  
300 words.

Reflection Questions:  
  
Consider the information that you have gathered over the course of this web quest and answer the following deeper thinking questions:  
  
1. Compare the people's responses to disease in the middle ages (flagellants, prayer, small and potions, rituals, abandoning sick people) to how we respond to disease today (medicine, hospitalisation, research, infection control, nursing care)? Why do you suppose these responses are so different? Provide a detailed and thoughtful response.

2. The plague led to a huge loss of workers and people being able  to sell their skills to the highest bidder. How did this lead to the eventual down fall of the Feudal System?    
  
Choose two of the websites that you have looked at during the course of this web-quest and answer the following questions:   
  
1. How reliable on a scale 1-5 (with 1 being least reliable and 5 being most reliable) did you find this website?  
  
2. What makes you say that?