

Mexborough St John the Baptist C of E Primary School - History

Topic: Peasants, princes and pestilence

Year: 5

Strand: History

What should I already know?

That knights and Kings were important during Medieval times.
That society was split into peasants, knights nobles and Kings.
That William the Conquerer introduced the feudal system to control England.
Words and phrases relating to timeline of events such as; past, present, Medieval, historical, chronological
Ask questions such as: How was ___ different to ___? How does ___ compare to ___?

Causes of the Black Death

The Black Death was the result of a plague which was caused by bacteria. This bacterium was carried by fleas on black rats, and then transferred to humans.
Nevertheless, in medieval times it was thought that there were other causes to the Black Death:

- Wearing pointed shoes
- The Gods showing their anger
- A movement of the planets
- Strangers entering your village

Symptoms of the Black Death

The symptoms of the Black Death were usually recognized between 2-6 days of being infected.
Symptoms included:

- Fever and chills
- headache
- muscle pain
- general weakness
- seizures

People reported finding swollen lymph glands which were large black spots called buboes.

That the Black Death originated in Asia and then spread through Europe.

That medieval paupers and princes had very different diets which affected their health and well-being.

The Black Death - 1348

Effects of the Black Death

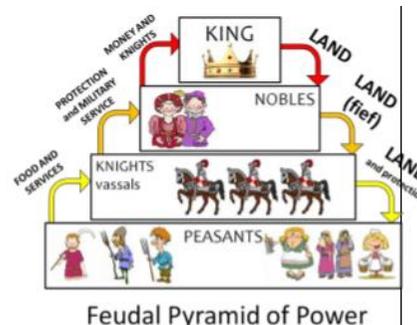
The Black Death affected people in different ways. Some people became angry with religion and the Church. Some people became wild and immoral.
Others blamed themselves and started to punish themselves (flagellants).
It is thought that poorer people who survived began to hate those of a higher class and put an end to the feudal system.
Some peasants gained work as there became a shortage of workers.

Background information

The 14th century was a difficult time for the people of England. The kings of England fought expensive and usually unsuccessful battles.
Cold weather and bad harvests at the beginning of the century led to famine. A disease called the Black Death spread through Europe to Britain and killed millions of people. The poor rebelled over expensive taxes and terrible working conditions.

What is the feudal system?

William the Conqueror wanted to divide land and power of England to show his appreciation of those who helped conquer England. The idea was that parliament could run the country when the king was away, the king gained reliable soldiers and those who could afford it gave money to pay for more soldiers.



Vocab	Definition
Bacteria	Micro-organisms that cause disease.
Bubonic plague	The name for the Black Death.
Bishop	A high ranking priest in charge of other priests.
Chivalry	The rules that Knights live by based on courage, kindness and honour.
Famine	An extreme situation where there isn't enough food to feed everyone.
Feudal system	A system of government where the King allocates land to lords and barons who would then pledge their loyalty to the king and promise to protect his rule.
Fief	An area of land given to a baron or lord in return for loyalty.
King	The top ruler in a monarchy.
Noble	A person who belongs to the highest social class.
Plague	A disease caused by bacteria which spreads very quickly.
Poll tax	A set amount of money that must be paid by every adult to the government.
Revolt	A violent action taken against a government or a ruler.
Serf	A servant who had to obey and work on the land of the lord.
Squire	A knight in training. He would look after the knight's armour and weapons and would accompany the knight into battle.
Villein	A peasant who pays the lord or manor for land.
Pestilence	a fatal epidemic disease, especially bubonic plague.
Contaminate	make (something) impure by exposure to or addition of a poisonous or polluting substance.
Heraldry	the system by which coats of arms and other armorial bearings are devised, described, and regulated.
Flagellants	People who punished themselves for thinking they were to blame for the plague.
Knight	A man given a special title for achievements as a warrior.
Medieval	The Middle Ages (between 500 and 1600 AD)
Symptom	A sign that something is wrong (especially when someone is sick).

Monarchs

Edward II – 1307-1327

Edward III – 1327-1377

Richard II - 1377 - 1399

The peasant's revolt 1381

Richard II's war against France was going badly so he created a hefty poll tax to tax all adults. This would help fund his war plans. Serfs (peasants) had enough that times hadn't changed after the Black Death and demanded fairer wages, working hours, more equality and better laws for poorer people.
Richard II ended the revolt by saying there would be an end to serfdom. However, once the revolt was over, Richard II sent officials to hang those involved in the organization of the revolt.

Topic: Princes, Pestilence and Paupers

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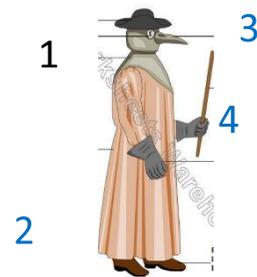
Question 1: What year did the plague reach England?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
1834		
1483		
1348		
1438		

Question 6: What originally spread the plague?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Bacteria		
Rats		
Fleas		
Strangers		

Question 8: Which of these are symptoms of the Black Death?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Fever		
Buboes		
Hair loss		
Muscle pain		
Teeth falling out		
Headache		
Stomach ache		

Question 2: Which people were at the bottom of the feudal system?	Start of unit:	End of unit:

Question 7: Can you name the function of the different parts of the Plague Doctor's costume?



1	The beak mask was to.....
2	The cloak was to.....
3	The beak had herbs inside to.....
4	The stick was to.....

Question 3: Name two reasons for famine at the start of the 14 th century.	Start of unit:	End of unit:

Question 9: Why did the peasants revolt?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
They weren't happy about the plague.		
They wanted to be soldiers.		
They were cold.		
They wanted fairer treatment		

Question 4: What caused the plague?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Rats		
Bacteria		
Being sinful		

Question 10: After the revolt, the King....(tick 2)	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Stopped peasants being under the control of the nobility.		
Hung everyone who was involved in the organisation.		
Abolished the poll tax.		
Released everyone from prison.		

Question 5: Who was King when the Plague came to England?	Start of unit:	End of unit: