Days 1 and 2: What was the Black Death, where did it originate, and how did it spread?

- I can explain the reliability of a source for a purpose
- I can identify and explain a cause and effect relationship between documents

Introduction

Directions: Examine the image and description below, then respond the prompts.

Predict

1. How would people react to this disease?

2. Write down what effects a disease like this might have on our country and the people in it in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short Term Effects on the United States</th>
<th>Long Term Effects on the United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Imagine that over the course of the last four years a strange disease killed half of the people in the United States. The mysterious illness caused those inflicted to cough up blood and pus, and blood-filled growths to develop on their bodies. The disease spread easily from person to person and though doctors gave a lot of advice, nothing worked to stop it.
What was the Black Plague?

Black Death Vocabulary

| Epidemic (n.)- a widespread occurrence of a disease | Pandemic (adj.)- widespread over a whole country or the world | Plague- (n.) a contagious bacterial disease characterized by fever, insanity, and formation of buboes, and sometimes an infection of the lungs | Yersinia Pestis- (n.) the bacteria that causes plague | Buboes- (n.) swollen lymph nodes in the armpit or groin |

The Black Death, also known as the Black Plague, was a devastating epidemic that struck large portions of Asia, the Middle East, and Europe in the 14th century (1300s). In Europe, it killed between ⅓ and ⅔ of the population, depending on the region. In total around the world, at least 75 million people were killed by the disease in the mid 1300s.

Most scientists now believe that the Black Death was an outbreak of bubonic plague, which is a disease caused by the bacterium Yersinia pestis which lives in rodents like rats. Rats, which were common in Medieval cities, often had fleas on them. The fleas bit the rats, then jumped onto humans and bit them, which spread the disease to humans. Once the disease was in a person it was spread from person to person through body fluid and coughing.

This passage was adapted by New Visions from the Black Death on New World Encyclopedia which is published under the CC-BY-SA 3.0 license.
2. Dance of Death, which was a common theme in Medieval art because of the fear of the plague.

Dance of Death, which was a common theme in Medieval art because of the fear of the plague. Image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

Rat contracts the bacterium Yersinia Pestis

Flea jumps on rat and bites it and has rat blood in its mouth.

Flea jumps on human and bites, mixing rat and human blood and giving human Yersinia Pestis.

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Directions: Watch the clip from Mankind Episode Episode 5 12:14--29:55 then answer the questions below.

Mankind Episode Episode 5 12:14-21:07--29:55

1. According the video(s) and above, what was the Black Death?

2. What caused the Black Death?

3. Why did the Black Death spread so far and kill so many people?
SQ 9: What was the Black Death?
Where did it spread? How did it spread?

**Directions:** Watch use the map below and the maps on the following pages to answer the accompanying questions.

1. Based on the map to the left, where did the Black Death originate? What is your evidence?

2. What types of routes did the Black Death travel on?

![Map of First Incidence of Black Death in Europe and Asia, 1333-1351](image)

3. Based on the map above, which trade networks did the Black Death travel through in the mid-1300s?
From the beginnings of the Mongol Empire, the Mongol Khans fostered trade and sponsored numerous caravans. The very size of the Mongol Empire encouraged the wider dissemination of goods and ideas throughout Eurasia, as merchants and others could now travel from one end of the empire to another with greater security, guaranteed by the *Pax Mongolica*.

Source: "The Mongol Empire in World History" by Timothy May from North Georgia College and State University on World History Connected. [http://worldhistoryconnected.press.illinois.edu/5.2/may.html](http://worldhistoryconnected.press.illinois.edu/5.2/may.html).

4. Based on the quote and map to the left, what role did the Mongols play in the spread of the Black Death?
Michael Platiensis lived in Messina, the first port city in Europe to feel the effects of the plague. The following document is his description of the arrival and progress of the disease in 1347 though the account was written in 1357.

At the beginning of October, in the year of the incarnation of the Son of God 1347, twelve Genoese galleys [trading ships] . . . entered the harbor of Messina. In their bones they bore so virulent a disease that anyone who only spoke to them was seized by a mortal illness and in no manner could evade death. The infection spread to everyone who had any contact with the diseased. Those infected felt themselves penetrated by a pain throughout their whole bodies and, so to say, undermined. Then there developed on the thighs or upper arms a boil about the size of a lentil which the people called "burn boil". This infected the whole body, and penetrated it so that the patient violently vomited blood. This vomiting of blood continued without intermission for three days, there being no means of healing it, and then the patient expired.

Not only all those who had speech with them died, but also those who had touched or used any of their things. When the inhabitants of Messina discovered that this sudden death emanated from the Genoese ships they hurriedly ordered them out of

1. Who wrote this text? when was it written?
2. Is this a primary or secondary source? How do you know?
3. According to the author, what brought the plague to Messina?
the harbor and town. But the evil remained and caused a fearful outbreak of death. 

Soon men hated each other so much that if a son was attacked by the disease his father would not tend him. If, in spite of all, he dared to approach him, he was immediately infected and was bound to die within three days. Nor was this all; all those dwelling in the same house with him, even the cats and other domestic animals, followed him in death. As the number of deaths increased in Messina many desired to confess their sins to the priests and to draw up their last will and testament. But ecclesiastics [clergy who work for the Catholic Church], lawyers and notaries refused to enter the houses of the diseased.

Soon the corpses were lying forsaken in the houses. No ecclesiastic, no son, no father and no relation dared to enter, but they hired servants with high wages to bury the dead. The houses of the deceased remained open with all their valuables, gold and jewels. . . . When the catastrophe had reached its climax the Messinians resolved to emigrate. One portion of them settled in the vineyards and fields, but a larger portion sought refuge in the town of Catania. The disease clung to the fugitives and accompanied them everywhere where they turned in search of help. Many of the fleeing fell down by the roadside and dragged themselves into the fields and bushes to expire. Those who reached Catania breathed their last in the hospitals there. The terrified citizens would not permit the burying of fugitives from Messina within the town, and so they were all thrown into deep trenches outside the walls.

Thus the people of Messina dispersed over the whole island of Sicily and with them the disease, so that innumerable people died. The town of Catania lost all its inhabitants, and ultimately sank into complete oblivion. Here not only the "burn

4. What symptoms did the author observe in victims of the plague?

5. According to the author, what brought the plague to Catania?

6. What methods did people use to stop the spread of the plague?
blisters" appeared, but there developed gland boils on the groin, the thighs, the arms, or on the neck. At first these were of the size of a hazel nut, and developed accompanied by violent shivering fits, which soon rendered those attacked so weak that they could not stand up, but were forced to lie in their beds consumed by violent fever. Soon the boils grew to the size of a walnut, then to that of a hen's egg or a goose's egg, and they were exceedingly painful, and irritated the body, causing the sufferer to vomit blood. The sickness lasted three days, and on the fourth, at the latest, the patient succumbed [gave in; died]. As soon as anyone in Catania was seized with a headache and shivering, he knew that he was bound to pass away within the specified time. . . . When the plague had attained its height in Catania, the patriarch endowed all ecclesiastics, even the youngest, with all priestly powers for the absolution [forgiveness] of sin which he himself possessed as bishop and patriarch. But the pestilence [disease] raged from October 1347 to April 1348. The patriarch himself was one of the last to be carried off. He died fulfilling his duty. At the same time, Duke Giovanni, who had carefully avoided every infected house and every patient, died.


7. Historian and author, Leonard W. Courie wrote that “Faith in religion decreased after the plague.” What evidence from this account might support Courie’s claim?

**Cause**- refers to something that contributes to the occurrence of an event, the rise of an idea, or the bringing about of a development.

**Effect**- refers to what happens as a consequence (result, impact, outcome) of an event, an idea or a development.

9. Identify and explain a cause and effect relationship between what is depicted in the map entitled “Course of the Black Death in 14th Century Europe” and Michael Platiensis’s account. Be sure to use evidence from both documents in your response.
SQ 9: What was the Black Death? Where did the Black Death originate? How did it spread?

**Directions:** Using evidence from the documents above, respond to the tasks below in the space provided.

**Task 1:** What was the Black Death and identify where it originated.

**Task 2:** Describe how the Black Death spread from its origin to Europe. Include the direction it traveled using the word bank below and the methods through which it spread to and between humans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>West</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Day 3: What were the effects of the Black Death?

Objective:
- I can explain the social, political, and economic effects of the Black Death.

Directions:

WRITE NOW: Explain the purpose of the graph above.

_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
political effects--things that impact how a nation is run, who is in charge, its laws, how much freedom people have, how it deals with other nations, etc.

Social effects--impacts the social hierarchy or how people interact

Economic effects--impacts trade, business, jobs, money, resources

Short-term effects--things that impact you immediately for a relatively short period of time

Long-term effects--things that may have impacted you which have continued for a long time or will continue for a long time in the future.

Document Analysis Activity: Effects of the Black Death
Directions: Use the documents on the following pages to fill in the graphic organizer below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Long Term Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Term Effects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Political</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Economic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNIT 5 | Social & Cultural Growth & Conflict | SQ 9: What was the Black Death?
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Annotation Protocol

SCAN < Look at the title, author, date published, and pre-read questions!

CIRCLE words you don’t know

UNDERLINE Important information, like info that answers the who, what, where, when, why, and how of the text!

BOX Names, dates, and places

ANNOTATE < Take notes in the margins!
Document 1
The plague had large scale social and economic effects...People abandoned their friends and family, fled cities, and shut themselves off from the world. Funeral rites became perfunctory [superficial] or stopped altogether, and work ceased being done. Some felt that the wrath of God was descending upon man, and so fought the plague with prayer. Some felt that they should obey the maxim [saying], “Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow you may die.” The society experienced an upheaval to an extent usually only seen in controlled circumstances such as carnival [festival]. Faith in religion decreased after the plague, both because of the death of so many of the clergy and because of the failure of prayer to prevent sickness and death....


Document 2
Cities were hit hard by the plague. Financial business was disrupted as debtors died and their creditors found themselves without recourse. Not only had the debtor died, his whole family had died with him and many of his kinsmen. There was simply no one to collect from.

Construction projects stopped for a time or were abandoned altogether. Guilds [associations of professionals] lost their craftsmen and could not replace them. Mills and other special machinery might break and the one man in town who had the skill to repair it had died in the plague. We see towns advertising for specialists, offering high wages.

Document 3

Life Expectancy in Medieval England
1276–1375

Document 4

The plague came to Europe in the fall of 1347. By 1350 it had largely passed out of western Europe. In the space of two years, one out of every three people was dead. Nothing like that has happened before or since. These general numbers disguise the uneven nature of the epidemic. Some areas suffered little, others suffered far more. Here are some examples.

Between 45% and 75% of Florence died in a single year. One-third died in the first six months. Its entire economic system collapsed for a time. In Venice, which kept excellent records, 60% died over the course of 18 months: five hundred to six hundred a day at the height. Certain professions suffered higher mortality, especially those whose duties brought them into contact with the sick—doctors and clergy. In Montpellier, only seven of 140 Dominican friars survived. In Perpignan, only one of nine physicians survived, and two of eighteen barber-surgeons. The death rate at Avignon was fifty percent and was even higher among the clergy. One-third of the cardinals died.

Long-term population loss is also instructive. Urban populations recovered quickly, in some cases within a couple of years, through immigration from the countryside because of increased opportunities in the cities. Rural population though, recovered itself slowly, for peasants left their farms for the cities.

Source: History of Western Civilization by E.L. Skip Knox, Boise State University.
Document 5: How did the loss of population affect wages for European survivors of the plague?

BEFORE THE PLAGUE

I need two men to plow the fields of my manor. How much do I need to pay you?

Protection for my family and a place to stay!

10 gold coins per field!

2 gold coins and meal!

Two meals a day. I'm starving!

You get the job!

6 gold coins per field!

Just give me a place to stay and food to eat!

AFTER THE PLAGUE

I need two men to plow the fields of my manor. How much do I need to pay you?

10 gold coins per field, two meals a day, and a share of the crops to sell at the market.

12 gold coins per field, two meals a day, a place for me and my family to stay, and protection.

You get the job!

You get the job!

Before the plague, high population led to a lot of competition for jobs, which meant that employers could pay workers less.

After the plague, there were very few people left to work, so employers had to pay workers more so they would work for them. This situation is called a labor shortage. Many peasants became merchants and other higher-paid professions after the black death because they had more money to start businesses and those who once did those jobs died from the plague.

Document 6: How feudal Lords dealt with the effects of the Black Plague

UNIT 5 | Social & Cultural Growth & Conflict | SQ 9: What was the Black Death?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problems Caused by the Plague</th>
<th>Solutions for Feudal Lords</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Many of the peasants who once farmed the land have died</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Peasants want more money to work on the land because of the labor shortage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Farm less land</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Grow crops like apples, olives, grapes, or vegetables (instead of wheat) or raise livestock like sheep or cows that require less labor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pay peasants wages, instead of offering the protection and food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lease (rent) land to peasants who can now afford it because of their higher wages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long Term Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Peasants gained more purchasing power because of their higher wages. They became richer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To make more money from their land, lords gave renters longer and longer leases and eventually sold acres of their manor to peasants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lords could no longer control the lives of peasants who owned their own land and who made money from the crops and livestock their raised on it. Over the next two hundred years, this process contributed to the end of feudalism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SQ 11: What were the effects of the Black Death?**

**EXIT SLIP Directions:** Using evidence from the documents above, respond to the task below in the space provided.

**Task:** Describe the effects of the Black Death by completing the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Sentence(s)</th>
<th>Sentence Starters and Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>describe how people were and/or have been affected</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>This event had positive/negative effects such as...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>describe how many people’s lives have been affected</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>This event impacted the entire region of... Over half the population was affected because...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>describe how long lasting the changes were and/or have been</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>The golden ages of Islamic caliphates led to the establishment of regions throughout the world such as South Asia far into the 13th century.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNIT 5 | Social & Cultural Growth & Conflict | SQ 9: What was the Black Death?