

# The Great Plague

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## Summary

This book is about the Great Plague: how it happened, how it was treated, and what we can learn from it.

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# Before Reading

## Think Ahead

Look at the pictures and answer the questions.



population

wall



germs

flea



plague

1. What are all the people living in an area called?
2. What is the small bug in the picture called?
3. What lives on this small bug (that we can't see)?
4. What can you build to keep things in or out?

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# Vocabulary

## A Read and match.

1.



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• a. rash

2.



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• b. dirty

3.



•

• c. breathe

4.



•

• d. infected

5.



•

• e. fever

6.



•

• f. poverty

7.



•

• g. bump

8.



•

• h. tobacco

**B Write the word for each definition.**

cemetery

bury

large-scale

scare

swell

1. \_\_\_\_\_ to put something in the ground and cover it with earth
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to frighten a person or an animal
3. \_\_\_\_\_ happening over a large area
4. \_\_\_\_\_ to get bigger; to increase in size
5. \_\_\_\_\_ an area of land used for burying dead people

**C Choose the word that means about the same as the underlined words.**

1. People with the plague developed boils on their skin.  
a. cuts                      b. burns                      c. rashes                      d. bumps
2. The plague caused people to develop fevers and feel faint.  
a. hot                      b. dizzy                      c. dirty                      d. infected
3. Diseased fleas would bite people and spread the plague.  
a. Infected                      b. Scared                      c. Poisoned                      d. Dirty
4. The government believed you could catch the plague from inhaling bad air.  
a. breathing                      b. burying                      c. poisoning                      d. scaring

## Comprehension

**A Match the pictures with the correct sentences.**

- a. Death carts were used to collect dead bodies.
- b. The number of deaths from the Great Plague filled many cemeteries.
- c. The government used rat poison to kill dogs and cats.



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_

**B Choose the best answer.**

1. What was burned and smoked to try and kill the plague?
  - a. Wood
  - b. Tobacco
  - c. Paper
  - d. None of the above
2. Who were the people that went from house to house looking for plague victims?
  - a. Doctors
  - b. Breeders
  - c. Searchers
  - d. a and b
3. What name did the plague get from the black boils on infected people?
  - a. The Black Sickness
  - b. The Black Plague
  - c. The Black Fever
  - d. The Black Death



**C** Choose the correct phrase for each picture. One (1) choice will not be used.

- a. Boils, rashes, and fever
- b. Fires and smoke throughout the city
- c. Paying a doctor to lie
- d. A mark on the door of a plague victim
- e. A mask to scare away the disease



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_

**D** Read each sentence. Write “T” if it is true or “F” if it is false.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The plague killed humans quickly, but it did not kill animals as fast.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Finally, at the start of 1666, the number of deaths from the plague started to go down.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The government helped collect dead bodies by sending “death carts” around the city.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The Great Plague killed everyone living in London.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Now we know that the Great Plague was caused by birds.

**E Complete the sentences with the correct words.**

1. It was \_\_\_\_\_ for people to get the plague by breathing air into the lungs.  
easy    uncommon
2. London was easy to contain because it was a \_\_\_\_\_ city.  
walled    large-scaled
3. Victims of the plague often had \_\_\_\_\_ on their bodies that would swell.  
germs    bumps
4. Many ships carried \_\_\_\_\_ between countries in the 1600s.  
infected    goods
5. The streets of London became \_\_\_\_\_ because people emptied their toilets onto them.  
dirty    poison

**F Number the events in order from 1=first to 5=last.**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ In February of 1666, the king again made his home in London.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ So many people were getting sick and starting to die that the government had to take action.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ Life in the city of London in the summer of 1665 was terrible.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ Scientists figured out how the plague spread.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ People wanted to escape the city's walls, but they needed a special paper to get out.

## Think About It

**A** Look in the reader to write the answers to the following 5-W questions.

| Who?   | What?   | When?   | Where?   | Why?   |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| At the time of the plague, _____ did not know how to make people better. | The government killed many cats and dogs with rat _____ because they thought it would help stop the plague. | After 300 years of no signs of the plague, it returned to Europe in the year _____. | The city of _____ was a walled city, and it was closed off when the plague was discovered. | The plague was caused by a _____ on fleas transported by rats. |

**B** Complete the sentences below with your own ideas.

From this book, I learned \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Before I read this book, I knew \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Now I also know \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.