

# VI The Black Death

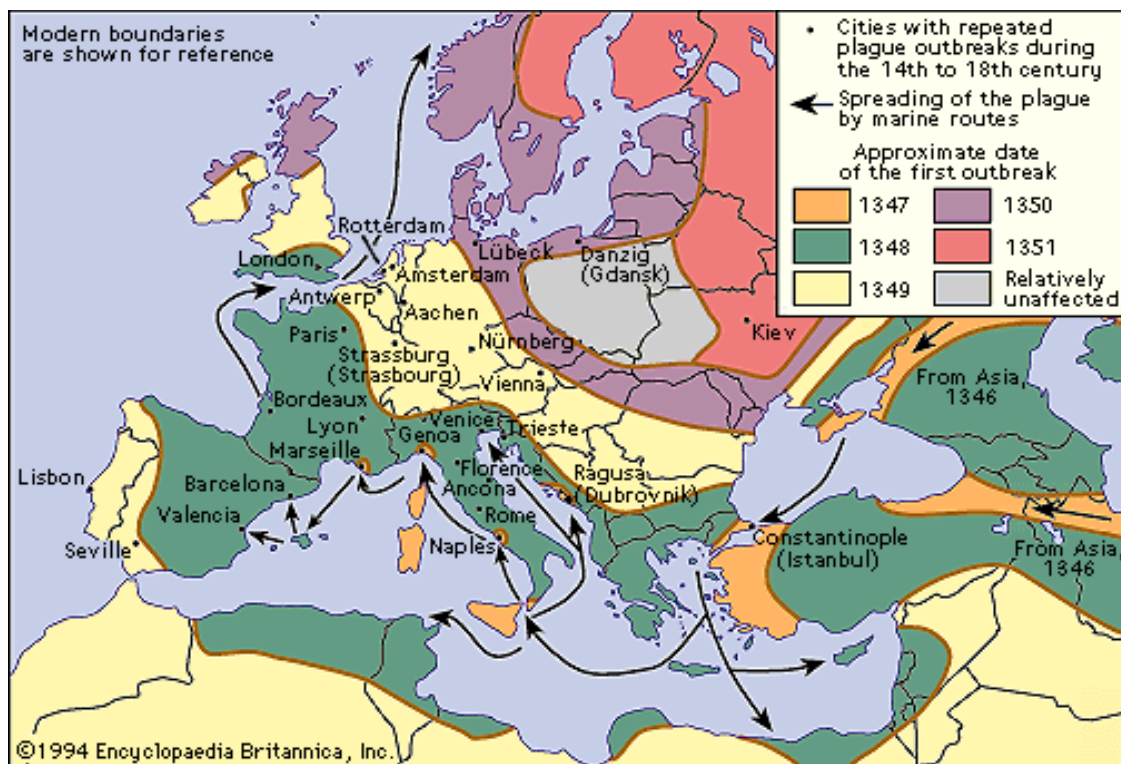
The [bubonic plague](#) was one of the most feared diseases of the ancient and medieval worlds. During the Middle Ages, a lot of people began to catch this terrible disease that was spreading along trade routes from Asia to Europe in the 14<sup>th</sup> century AD. The first outbreak damaged Europe between 1347 and 1351, killing many people. Coming from the East, the [Black Death](#) spread to the coasts of Spain in 1348 and about one out of every three people died.

When someone caught the illness they got big black spots called *buboes* on their armpits, behind their knees and on their neck. The biggest buboes could be as big as an apple. The most important variant was the bubonic plague which came from rats. Many died just one or two days after catching the disease. Most of the people who got the plague died especially poor people who didn't have healthy food to eat. People blamed the Jews for this disease.

A lot of people called it the Black Death, because during the disease the tips of the fingers, the toes and the nose often turned black.

## 1. Write sentences matching the beginnings with the endings.

- The bubonic plague ...
- The buboes were the ...
- The Black Death spread....
- The illness spread along trade routes...
  - \_\_\_ came from Asia.
  - \_\_\_ to coasts of Spain in 1348.
  - \_\_\_ black spots that victims caught.
  - \_\_\_ from Asia to Europe in the 1300s AD.



1. Black Death in Europe (Map from Encyclopaedia Britannica).

## 2. True or false?

Draw an arrow to the princess if the affirmation is right.

Draw an arrow to the church if the affirmation is wrong.

**1** The plague caused big black buboes on the body.

**2** The bubonic plague was carried by cats.



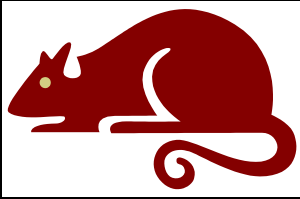
**3** The plague was also known as the Black flu.

**4** People blamed the Jews.

**5** The plague killed 1500 people in the Aragon Crown.

**6** The plague was carried by rats.

**7** The plague killed one third of the Spanish people.



### 2.1. Correct the false sentences

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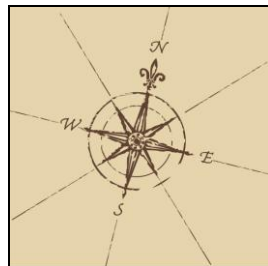
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3. Make a list of 12 European countries and their capital cities. Look at the map.

ENGLISH		TRANSLATION	
COUNTRY	CAPITAL	PAÍS	CAPITAL
<i>Austria</i>	<b>Vienna</b>		



2. Compass.

4. Oral activity. Look at the map and make questions to your classmate. (page 27)

- Where is Lisbon?  
*Lisbon is a Portuguese city and Portugal a country in the West of Europe.*
- Where is Spain?  
*Spain is in the North of Europe.*
- No, it isn't. Spain is in the South. What's its capital?  
*It is Madrid /Spain's capital is Madrid.*

4.1. Write 6 complete questions and answers.

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2. **Acrostic poems** are easy poems in which the **first** letter of each line forms a word or phrase<sup>1</sup>. Here you have an example:

### **Black Death**

<b>B</b> ad was	<b>d</b> ied,
<b>l</b> ife in	<b>e</b> ven poor or rich
<b>a</b> ll European	<b>a</b> nd also
<b>c</b> ountries.	<b>t</b> hose who were
<b>k</b> ids in the Middle Ages	<b>h</b> ealthy.

### **ACROSTIC POEM BLACK DEATH**

B \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

K \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> You can repeat the activity online: <http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/acrostic/>

2. Imagine you are a journalist. Use the computer to write an article. Write 7 lines of size 14 text about the Black Death in your country. Look at the tutorial called [How to write an article](#). You will need to include:



- A headline.
- A picture.
- The price and the date of publication at the top.
- To explain what the plague is/ what it was caused by.
- To explain what can be done about it.

4. In pairs make a word list related to the plague

Plague,

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