



# Peasants, Princes and Pestilence

Spread of the plague to Europe

## What I should already know

### Year 1: Bright Lights, Big Cities

Events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally

- All events leading up to, during and after The Great Fire of London in 1666.

## What I will know by the end of the unit

- **The Black Death:** 14<sup>th</sup> Century England, The Plague
- **The Peasants Revolt:** The story of Watt Tyler
- **Social Hierarchy:** Key features of the social hierarchy in 14<sup>th</sup> century England.
- **The Black Death:** The spread of the disease from the East. The spread from country to country. The symptoms of the Black Death (vomiting, buboes, sweating).
- **The Peasants Revolt: Watt Tyler, the events leading up to the killing of Tyler**
- **Know what a primary and secondary source is**
- **Social Hierarchy:** Kings, Knights, Barons, nobles, peasants (definition of each role in society)
- **Know the factors which led to the peasants revolt**

### English Focus

*Narrative using personification*

*Journals*

*English poetry*

*Persuasive speech*

*Letters*

*Drama*

**Text – Plague Tony**

**Bradman**

### Maths Focus

*Long Multiplication*

*Division by one number*

*Division with remainders*

*Fractions*

*-Equivalent*

*-Improper and mixed*

*number*

### Science Focus

***Living things and their habitats***

*Life cycles and process of reproduction of fleas and rats.*

*Growth of bacteria*



# Unit Glossary

spread of the plague to Europe

## bacteria

Microorganisms that can cause disease.

## banquet

A huge, formal feast, often with extravagant food and entertainment.

## Black Death

The name given to the bubonic plague that killed nearly half of the population of Europe and Asia during the 14th century.

## Canterbury Tales

A famous collection of stories written by Geoffrey Chaucer that describe the journey of a group of people who travelled as pilgrims to Canterbury.

## chivalry

The rules that knights lived by, that placed a high value on courage, kindness and honour.

## contaminate

To make something poisonous or impure.

## Flagellants

A group of people who thought the plague was a curse from God. They whipped themselves in public to show God that they were devout believers.

## heraldry

A system that enabled knights to be identified on the battlefield by their coats of arms.

## illuminated lettering

Important letters in early manuscripts that were enlarged, decorated and coloured.

## infection

A disease caused by harmful microorganisms in a part of the body.

## jousting

A sporting contest from the Middle Ages where knights would fight on horseback with lances.

## knight

In the Middle Ages, a knight was a chivalrous man who held a special military rank and trained to fight as a soldier on horseback.

## medieval

A term used when referring to the Middle Ages.

## Middle Ages

A period in history lasting from the 5th to the 15th century.

## monastery

A building in which monks lived together as a religious community.

## peasant

A poor farm worker or tradesman who had a low social status and few rights.

## pestilence

A very serious and infectious disease, such as the Black Death, that spreads quickly and is often fatal.

## rodent

A type of small mammal with large, sharp front teeth, such as rats and squirrels.

## serf

A medieval servant or labourer who was bound to obey and work on the land of a lord, and was treated as part of his property.

## squire

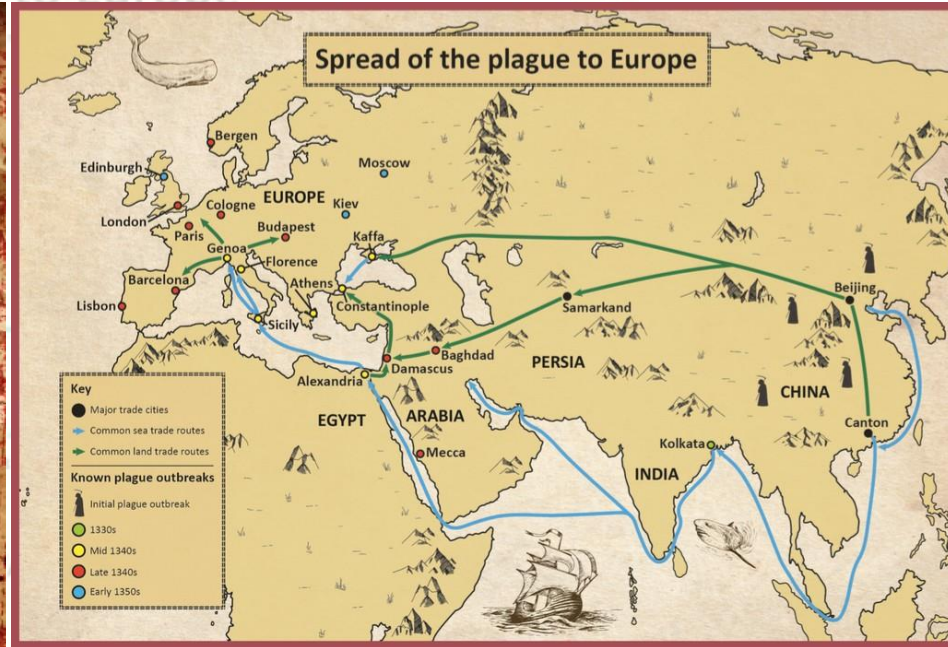
During the Middle Ages, a squire was a young servant to a knight who hoped to become a knight himself.

## symptom

A change that shows that a person is ill or becoming ill. For example, sneezing and a runny nose are symptoms of a cold.

## timeline

A line showing a period of time on which important events and dates are marked.



## The plague in Britain (1348–1350)



As the plague raged in Europe, it seemed inevitable that the deadly pestilence would eventually reach the shores of Britain.

### The plague arrives

The plague arrived in Britain early in the summer of 1348. A French sailor arrived in the port of Weymouth showing symptoms of the disease. Sickness then spread to the southwest of England, quickly reaching Bristol.

### The plague reaches London

The plague then travelled east, arriving in London and the surrounding areas by the autumn of 1348. From London, the plague spread into the southeast and north of England.

### The plague heads north

The Midlands, Yorkshire and Wales all reported the effects of the disease in the spring of 1349, and it had crossed the Irish Sea by the time summer came. The plague continued its journey north and reached Durham and the northeast by the winter of 1349.

### The plague in Scotland

With northern England weak with sickness, the Scots decided it would be easy to raid and steal from the northern towns. This led to them taking the plague back with them into Scotland. By the spring of 1350, most of Scotland had been struck down with the plague as well.

**Personification - Personification**  
describes something as if it has human qualities.

The breeze *whispered* among the leaves.

**Peasants' Revolt, also called Wat Tyler's Rebellion, (1381), first great popular rebellion in English history. Its immediate cause was the imposition of the unpopular poll tax of 1381, which brought to a head the economic discontent that had been growing since the middle of the century.**

