



The Perilous Plague History - Lent 2

The Plague

Approximately 350 years ago, a terrible disease spread across parts of Europe. It was known as the Great Plague.

There had been a plague in England for centuries, however the worst year was **1665** when London was badly affected.



1346

A new strain of a plague (that will become known as the Black Death) emerges in Mongolia. It soon starts to spread.

November 1347

The Black Death continues to spread across Europe and hits France.

14th February 1349

In Strasbourg, 2000 Jewish people are killed. This is because people blamed Jewish people for the Black Death.

March 1350

On the English border, 5000 Scottish troops die. The rest bring the Black Death back to Scotland, where it kills a third of the country.

October 1347

The Black Death reaches Italy. By summer 1348, a third of Italy have died.

June 1348

The Black Death reaches England.

April 1349

The Black Death reaches Wales. 100,000 people will die.

1351

The Black Death begins to fade away. It has killed around 50% of Europe's population.

Samuel Pepys

A lot of what we know about the Great Plague comes from the diary of a man called Samuel Pepys. He stayed in London and wrote in his diary every day. He wrote about everyday life, but he also wrote about important events in British History. His diary has helped us learn a lot about the Great Plague, especially about how and why it spread.



Glossary

bacteria

A large group of single-cell microorganisms. Some cause infections and disease in animals and humans.

contaminate

To make something dangerous, dirty, or impure by adding something harmful or undesirable to it.

Feudal system

A system in which people were given land and protection by people of higher rank, and worked and fought for them in return.

Immunity

Being resistant to a particular infectious disease.

infection

The invasion and growth of germs in the body.

Medieval

Relating to or made during the period of European history between the end of the Roman Empire in 476 AD and about 1500 AD.

peasant

A poor person of low social status who works on the land.