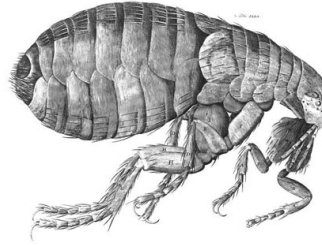


## Year 7 Knowledge Organiser- Term 2 Medieval England and the Black Death

### Background details:

- Arrived in England in 1348.
- Spread by bacteria in the bloodstream of fleas that fed on rats. It spread to humans when fleas jumped onto them and bit them.
- Spread from China to Europe by ships carrying the rats (and their fleas) along trade routes.
- It killed a third of Europe's population.



### Symptoms:

- Buboes (boils) in the neck, armpits and groin.
- Vomiting
- Fever
- Internal bleeding

### Medieval beliefs about the causes of the Black Death:

#### Supernatural causes:

- God punishing people for their sins.
- The alignment of the planets/astrology.

#### Natural causes:

- Miasma (bad/foul-smelling air)
- Contagious- spread from person to person.



### Attempts to cure the Black Death:

- Burning clothes of the victims.
- Staying away from plague victims
- Prayer
- Going on pilgrimages, fasting and self-flagellation (punishing one's self for their sins)
- Cleaning the streets
- Removing bad smells from the air by burning flowers and smelling flowers and fragrant herbs.
- Killed cats and dogs.

### Consequences of the Black Death:

- 33% of the English population died.
- Wages increased by 400% after the disease. Workers could demand more as fewer of them were alive.
- Women had new job opportunities.
- Medical knowledge improved as doctors were allowed study corpses. People began to understand how the human body worked.
- Peasants' attitude towards authority changed. They believed they could stand up to authority as God had spared them.
- Officials slowly realised that towns and cities had to be cleaner in future.