




Year 3 World Events: The Great Plague

Subject Specific Vocabulary	
plague	A very infectious disease spread by fleas and rats, causing swelling, fever, and usually death.
Black Death	A disease that killed an extremely large number of people in Europe and Asia in the 14th century.
disease	An illness of people or animals caused by an infection.
epidemic	A disease that is widespread and affects a large number of people.
contagious	A disease spread from one person to another.
fever	A medical condition in which you have a high temperature, shivers and a headache.
posies	A small bunch of flowers.
remedies	A medicine or treatment for a disease or injury.
fleas	Small jumping insects that feed on the blood of animals and humans. 

1665-1666

The estimated number of deaths is 100,000.

Knowledge about the Great Plague

- Rats carried the fleas that caused the plague. They were attracted by city streets filled with rubbish and waste.
- Being a plague doctor was an unpleasant job and dangerous job. They wore a long cloak, gloves, hat and a mask to protect themselves.
- The most common symptoms included headaches, fever, vomiting, painful swellings on the neck, armpits and groin (known as buboes), blisters and bruises and coughing up blood.
- There was no cure for the plague. People suffering or showing symptoms of the plague had to isolate in their homes for 40 days. A large red cross was nailed to the front door to warn others that those inside were infected.

Plague Doctor



What happened at Eyam?



How do we know about the Great Plague?

- Samuel Pepys' diary
- Eye witness accounts
- Chronicles and reports
 - Books
 - Bill of Mortality

Timeline of Events

1603
Bill of Mortality
continuously
used in London.

November 1605
The Gunpowder Plot.

February 1665
The outbreak of
the plague began
in London.

June 1665
The plague spreads to
the village of Eyam.

November 1665
There is no more
plague in Eyam.

December 1665
People who fled
London begin to
return.

September 1666
The Great Fire of
London