
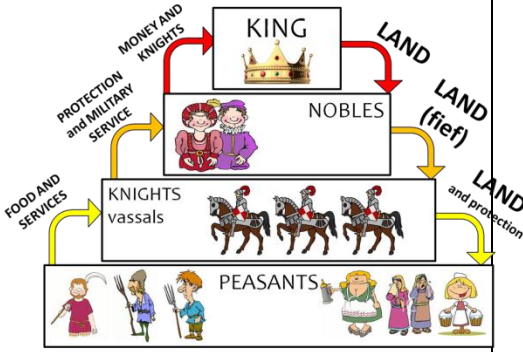


Peasants, Princes and Pestilence

The 14th century was a difficult time for the people of England. The kings of England fought expensive and usually unsuccessful battles. Cold weather and bad harvests at the beginning of the century led to famine. A disease called the Black Death spread through Europe to Britain and killed millions of people. The poor rebelled over expensive taxes and terrible working conditions.

Key facts	Key Vocabulary	Definition
90% of people were peasants in the Medieval ages.	Bacteria	Microorganisms that can cause disease
Most peasants died before they reached the age of 30.	Bishop	A high ranking priest in the church who is in charge of other priests
The Black Death killed 75 million people in Asia which is 3x higher than Europe's death toll.	Chivalry	The rules that knights lived by, based on courage, kindness and honour
The Black Death wasn't the first plague epidemic to hit Europe (Justinian's plague in the 6 th century)	Famine	An extreme situation where there is little or no food available to feed many people
	Feudal system	A system of government where the king allotted land to his lords and barons. The lords and barons would then pledge their loyalty to the king and promise to protect his rule
<p>What is the feudal system? They should regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance William the Conqueror wanted to divide land and power of England to show his appreciation of those who helped conquer England. The idea was that parliament could run the country when the king was away, the king gained reliable soldiers and those who could afford it gave money to pay for more soldiers.</p>	Fief	An area of land given to a lord or baron by a king to rule
	King	The top ruler in a monarchy
	Noble	A person who belongs to the highest social class
	Parliament	A group of people who make laws and run a country
	Plague	A disease caused by bacteria that spreads very quickly
	Poll tax	A set amount of money that must be paid by every adult to the government
	Revolt	A violent action taken against a government or ruler
	Serf	A servant who had to obey and work on the land of a lord
	Squire	A knight in training, the squire would take care of the knight's armor and weapons. He would also accompany the knight into battle
	Villein	A peasant who pays a lord or manor for land
<p>How each role was different: Gain and deploy a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms such as 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry' Kings: the top ruler in the system Bishops/nobles: the church owned 25% of the land and nobles helped advise the king with military strategy Knights: they would be granted land by lords in return for protection from a knight Serfs/villeins: they work on the land of the lords in return for somewhere to live. Villeins could own their own land.</p>		
<p>Feudal Pyramid of Power</p> 		



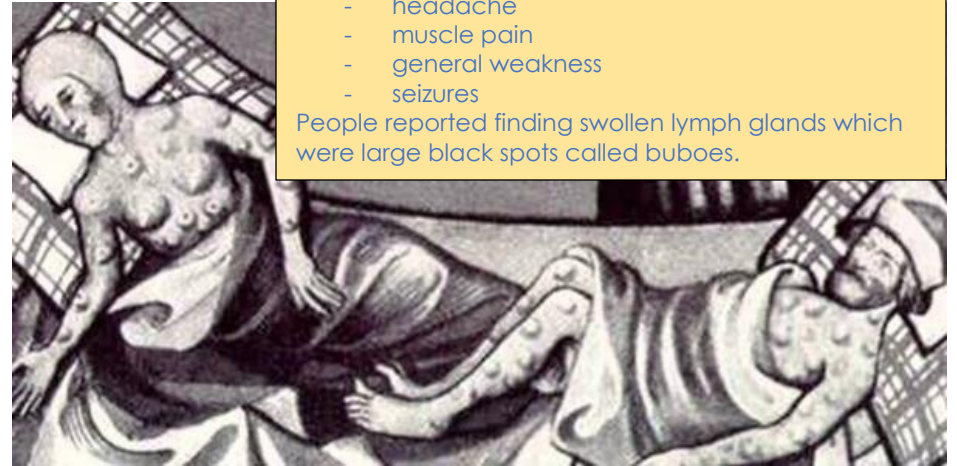
a study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066

Causes of the Black Death

The Black Death was the result of a plague which was caused by bacteria. This bacterium was carried by fleas on black rats, and then transferred to humans.

Nevertheless, in medieval times it was thought that there were other causes to the Black Death:

- Wearing pointed shoes
- The Gods showing their anger
- A movement of the planets
- Strangers entering your village



Symptoms of the Black Death

The symptoms of the Black Death were usually recognized between 2-6 days of being infected.

Symptoms included:

- Fever and chills
- headache
- muscle pain
- general weakness
- seizures

People reported finding swollen lymph glands which were large black spots called buboes.

They should note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms

Effects of the Black Death

The Black Death affected people in different ways. Some people became angry with religion and the Church. Some people became wild and immoral.

Others blamed themselves and started to punish themselves (flagellants).

It is thought that poorer people who survived began to hate those of a higher class and put an end to the feudal system.

Some peasants gained work as there became a shortage of workers.



They should construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organization of relevant historical information

The peasant's revolt

Richard II's war against France was going badly so he created a hefty poll tax to tax all adults. This would help fund his war plans.

Serfs (peasants) had enough that times hadn't changed after the Black Death and demanded fairer wages, working hours, more equality and better laws for poorer people.

Richard II said ended the revolt by saying there would be an end to serfdom.

However, once the revolt was over, Richard II sent officials to hang those involved in the organization of the revolt.