**The Black Death**

The **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Plague or ‘Black Death, was one of the most disastrous events of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_period. It is believed that between 25 and 30 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Europeans died over the four years from 1347 to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The disease comes from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of rats. Rats were common in medieval towns. The fleas bit and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the rats. The fleas moved from dead rats to other rats and humans. People bitten by the infected fleas would get the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This link between the fleas, rats and humans was sadly only discovered 500 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after this major outbreak.

The plague firs began in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the 1320’s. It was spread from east to west Asia overland via traders travelling along the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Road. It was also spread via traders and merchants along sea routes to Europe travelling on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . The Mongol siege of the port of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the Black \_\_\_\_ (what is now modern-day Turkey) also played a part in the spread of the disease. The port of Caffa was defended by merchants and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the Italian town of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. After the siege the Genoese returned home and brought the plague with them.

Over the next four years, the plague spread inland throughout most of the cities, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and villages of Western Europe. English soldiers returning from the Hundred Years War in France carried the disease with them back to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1348.

1351 China infected million Silk years ships fleas Genoa Medieval plague Sea bubonic Caffa England towns sailors

**For homework please ensure to complete** the *Completion of Medieval Europe Asst Survey* found at the bottom of the Medieval Assessment task page: <http://www.costellohsie.info/medieval-europe-asst-task.html>



**Black Death – Symptoms and treatments**

People at the time describe a range of plague symptoms including \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , coughing up \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the growth of large, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, itchy, blue-black \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (‘buboes’) in the groin and armpits. These tumour-like buboes gradually spread over the entire \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and emitted blood, \_\_\_\_ and horrible \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It could also make a person’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ turn black. The victim usually died within three to five \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the appearance of the initial symptoms.

Doctors at the time could not cure the plague because they didn’t really understand how \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were spread at the time. They used \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that they used for most other diseases at the time. Many doctors believed that all disease resulted from bad smells. They prescribed posies of pleasant smelling \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or flowers that the patient would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by means of a nosebag.

Doctors also used the popular medieval treatment of ‘bleeding’ the patient by attaching \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to key \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They also cut into the buboes to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what was thought to be the ‘bad’ blood within them. They then covered the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with a herbal ointment. Nothing worked.

Doctors themselves wore beak-like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (see images above) that they believed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them from the plague. In the masks would be a nosebag of posies or a cloth soaked in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This was obviously futile against flea bites and many doctors died before their patients.

pus painful days body vomiting sniff tongue blood tumours remove smells veins vinegar diseases leeches cuts treatments herbs protected

***Did you know*** *that there were 12 major Bubonic Plague outbreaks in Australia between 1900 and 1925 as ships imported wave after wave of infection?*