

Knowledge organiser: Did the Black Death bring destruction or opportunity?



<p>The Black Death killed over a third of England's population and dramatically transformed the long-standing structure of feudalism. The lower classes gained more rights, such as higher pay and freedom to move, whereas the nobility lost their control and power. Historians like Claire Kennan have said that 'despite damage and decay in some areas, there was opportunity and optimism in others' as a result of the Black Death. This unit will look at the CONSEQUENCES of the Black Death.</p>		Chronology: what happened on these dates?		Vocabulary: define these words	
Summarise your learning		1338-39	The first recorded outbreak of the Black Death was in central Asia.	Plague	A very infectious disease that spreads quickly and kills large numbers of people.
Topic 1: What was the Black Death?		1348 The Black Death reached England by ship, killing almost a third of the population.		Pandemic	The worldwide spread of a disease.
The Black Death was a highly infectious disease known as the bubonic plague. The plague was first recorded in central Asia and travelled along the trade routes to Europe. The infected suffered from fever and swellings, killing most of its victims.		1351	The Statute of Labourers was introduced to prevent changes in wages and working conditions for peasants.	Symptom	A physical or mental change that is caused by a disease.
Topic 2: How did people explain the Black Death?		1377	The first Poll Tax is introduced, which everyone had to pay.	Prevention	The action of stopping something from happening.
People believed that the Black Death had three causes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious – the most widespread explanation was that the Black Death was sent by God to punish people for their sins. • Scientific – medical students were taught that the Four Humours explained illness. • Superstitious (magical) – the disease was caused by an unusual alignment of the planets and bad air, known as miasma. Sewage piled up in the street, people used the rivers to remove waste, and few streets were paved, so they became very muddy. 				Contagious	A disease spread from one person to another, typically by direct contact.
Topic 3: How did people respond to the Black Death?				Population	All the people living in a country, city, or area.
Medical knowledge was limited at the time of the Black Death. People believed the plague was caused by the alignment of the planets, miasma (bad air) and a punishment from God. Treatments included smelling herbs, bleeding, praying or running away.				Damage	Destruction or harm to a person, village or country resulting from an action or event.
Topic 4: What were the short-term consequences?				Decay	To become slowly destroyed, worse, or less than it was before.
The Black Death killed over 1/3 of the population in England. As there was a shortage of workers farms were abandoned and villages were deserted. Some people believed any day could be their last, so they lived wildly and carelessly.				Opportunity	A situation that makes it possible to do something that you want to do or achieve progress.
Topic 5: What were the long-term consequences?				Optimism	The feeling of being hopeful that good things will happen and that the future will be successful.
The Black Death started to break down the Feudal System. As there were fewer peasants around, they could now demand more pay and choose who they worked for. Landlords were not pleased and began to demand that these changes had to stop.				The Black Death caused fundamental changes to society. Peasants and women gained more freedoms, whereas the nobility and the King lost their power and control over England.	

Key:

Destruction

Opportunity

Causes

**What caused the outbreak of the
Black Death in 1348?**

Consequences

Short-term

Long-term

