

Key Vocabulary

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| chronological order | Arranging events in time order |
| epidemic | A disease that spreads more quickly and more extensively |
| disease | An illness |
| contagious | Passes from one person to another by contact |
| Monarch | A ruler e.g. a king or a queen |
| population | All of the people who live in an area |
| buboes | Swelling on the neck, armpit or groin |
| quarantine | Isolation (being alone) because of disease |
| bacteria | Tiny, single-celled, living organisms |
| plague order | Steps put in place to prevent The Plague from spreading further |
| plague pit | Mass graves where the victims of The Plague were buried. |
| mortality | Death on a large scale |

1603 - Bill of Mortality continuously used in London.

November 1605 - The Gunpowder Plot.

February 1665 - The outbreak of the plague began in London.

May 1665 - 43 people die of the plague.

June 1665 - Plague spreads to the village of Eyam.

July 1665 - 17,036 people have died from Plague in July.

November 1665 - No more plague in Eyam.

December 1665 - People who fled London begin to return.

December 1665 - Recorded death rate of Plague for year is 68,596. More have expected to die than this.

September 1666 - The Great Fire of London

Key Knowledge

King Charles II was the Monarch of England during the Great Plague.

The London Mortality Bill was used to monitor the deaths in London continuously from 1603.

The Great Plague occurred between 1665 and 1666.

Before 1666, London was filled with cramped alleyways, wooden houses and infested with rats. People were always on the streets trading, fetching water or using the toilets

The Great Plague killed people at an incredible rate and victims died within days of catching the illness.

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 Great Plague. People with symptoms of the plague were left in their homes and a large red cross was nailed to the door to warn others that those inside were infected. 'God have mercy upon us' was written on the door.

Some doctors believed that bad poisonous air was the cause of the plague, infecting anyone who breathed it.

People did not understand that the plague was a disease found in black rats.

The disease was spread by fleas. They would bite the rats and become infected and the infected fleas would then spread the disease to humans.

Rats thrived in towns and cities especially London, due to the poor living conditions.

Ring-a-ring-a-rosy is a popular nursery rhyme that has many links to the Great Plague.

Eyam, a village in the Peak District, became infected with the Great Plague after a delivery of cotton and cloths. As the infection spread, William Mompesson decided that the village would need to quarantine to stop the spread of the disease. It took 4 months for the spread to stop.

History: The Great Plague

Symptoms

Many believe that the nursery rhyme Ring-a-ring-a-roses is about The Great Plague and the red rash/marks that would appear on a victims skin.



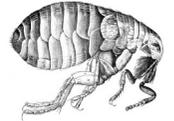
Plague Doctors

The Plague Doctor



How was The Plague spread?

The plague came from germs called *Pasteurella Pestis* which lived in the blood of rats and made them very sick. Fleas sucked the rats' blood before jumping onto a human. When on the human, they would bite the human and pass on the germs that caused The Plague. The human would then develop The Plague and pass their germs on further through coughing and sneezing.



Eyam Village

Eyam, a village in Derbyshire was badly affected by The Plague in 1665; however, those living in the village at the time, decided to cut themselves off from the outside world and quarantine themselves.

This sacrifice may have saved cities in the north of England from the worse of The Plague.



The Great Fire of London

The Great Plague ended with The Great Fire of London in 1666. is infamous fire, which started in a baker's shop on Pudding Lane on the 2nd of September 1666, destroyed a huge portion of London. Whilst this destruction was devastating, it did have the benefit of killing many of the plague-carrying rats and infected people and destroying the overcrowded suburbs of London.

