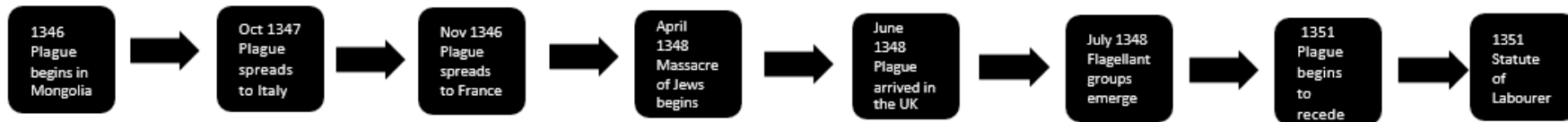


# To what extent did the Black Death change peoples' lives?



Key Word	Definition
Bubonic Plague	A disease spread by rat fleas
Flagellant	Someone who whips themselves to show God they are sorry.
Four Humours	Illness was caused by one of the four parts of your body being out of balance.
Herbal Remedies	Treatment using herbs and plants
Miasma	Bad air causes disease
Planets	The movement of the planets could cause disease.
Pneumonic Plague	Spread by person-to-person contact.
Prayer	Religious – to protect against illness.

The deaths in 1348-9 are so numerous that the statistics are much easier to talk about than the individual tragedies. Looked at from the safe distance of the twenty-first century, one can see its beneficial effects – how the Great Plague cauterises feudalism, frees up capital, and allows society to develop in a more democratic way. But a visit to the time reminds you, with a sharp shock, of both the reality and the scale of the suffering.

*Ian Mortimer*



What do I need to know?	
	Most victims of Black Death had a high temperature, a headache and were very thirsty. They often felt very sick. Black Death causes a type of pneumonia, so most died when their lungs filled with fluid.
	Bubonic plague had very distinctive swellings in the groin, armpit and stomach. This is where your lymph nodes are. They swell because of the infection and often turned a blue/black colour.
	It is believed that rat fleas were responsible for the spread of bubonic plague. At the time people believed that the movement of the planets, god and bad air were all responsible for the disease. In Europe they blamed Jews.
	One common treatment used was herbal remedies and sweet smelling herbs to avoid the disease. People also believed that prayer could protect them from getting sick.
	The Black Death travelled across Europe very quickly. It is estimated that about 40% of the population died. However, it could be higher. Almost 90% of the monks died in Jarrow.



If you want to find out more check out the following links or scan the QR codes on your phone or tablet.

**READ**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bit-size/guides/z7r7hyc/revis ion/1>

**SCAN ME**

**WATCH**  
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=5hBOqGC1BLw>

**SCAN ME**

**LISTEN**  
<https://play.acast.com/s/historvextra/9570d9f1-3345-4fef-9b39-7e544da23169>

**SCAN ME**

## What was life like in Medieval times?



Key Word	Definition
Peasant	Poor farm workers
Villein	Peasants who were not free to move from their manors.
Aldermen	Members of the town council
Merchants	traders
Manor	An area of land owned by a knight of lord
Famine	Shortage of food
Freemen	Peasants who were free to look for work.
Guilds	Organisations that control how a trade is run.

The Medieval Christian church controlled much of the life of the Medieval peasant. The church controlled which foods could be eaten on which days. The parish church played a key role in developing the culture of the people and was responsible for feasts and festivals.

*Roberta Gilchrist*



What do I need to know?	
	The land was owned by a Lord. Villeins had to work for the lord and were not able to move. They also had to pay taxes to the lord which meant they were very poor.
	Most people lived in the countryside and most peasants were farmers. They worked very hard all year round and had little machinery to help them.
	Towns were much smaller than they are now and were run by mayors. Food and other goods were traded in markets. During times of poor harvest there would be famine and food prices went up.
	The towns were very unhealthy and dangerous. People would get their water from the river but also use the river to get rid of waste. There were no health and safety rules.
	Peasants did sometimes have fun- there were many "holy days" when the church would organise entertainment and the peasants may get a day off work.