

name: class: date:

Bubonic Plague - A Medieval Catastrophe



The _____ Death, also known as the bubonic plague, was a devastating _____ that swept through Europe in the 14th century. It was caused by the bacterium _____ pestis, which was transmitted to humans from fleas that had bitten infected rats. The disease was named "bubonic" because of the swollen _____, or buboes, that appeared on the bodies of the infected. Symptoms were agonizing and included fever, _____, vomiting, and black spots on the skin due to internal bleeding. The _____ rate was incredibly high, with estimates suggesting that up to 60% of the European population perished. This catastrophic event led to significant _____, economic, and cultural changes. The labor shortage caused by the massive death toll resulted in better wages for _____ and contributed to the decline of the feudal system. Art and literature were profoundly influenced, often reflecting themes of mortality and the fragility of human _____. The plague also led to scapegoating and persecution of minorities, especially _____, who were unjustly blamed for spreading the disease. Despite its horrors, the Black Death eventually led to the emergence of more modern societies, as old institutions were questioned and _____ in science and medicine were pursued in the aftermath of the crisis.