

name: _____

class: _____

date: _____

The Plague and Its Lasting Influence



The _____ was one of the most devastating pandemics in human history, peaking in Europe between 1347 and 1351. It is estimated that the _____ killed about a third to half of Europe's population. Originating in Asia, the disease spread along the _____ and reached the continent via trading ships. The bacteria responsible, _____, was carried by fleas living on black rats that were common on ships. Symptoms of the illness included fever, _____, and blackened skin, leading to its name. Society was fundamentally changed, as the massive loss of life altered _____, labor structures, and social hierarchies. The _____ was also heavily impacted, as they were often in close contact with the sick, leading to significant losses among their ranks. Art and literature were transformed, reflecting the widespread _____ and existential questioning of the era. The pandemic also led to scapegoating and persecution, particularly of _____, who were unjustly blamed for spreading the disease. Despite the immense tragedy, the aftermath of the Black Death led to significant _____ and economic shifts, setting the stage for the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Renaissance.

Jews

economies

cultural

mortality

Black Death

Silk Road

clergy

plague

pain

Yersinia pestis