

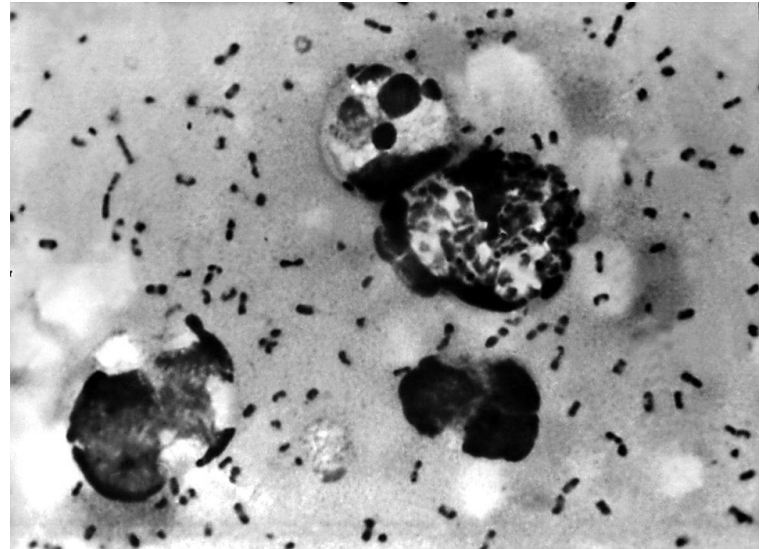
Plagues

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What makes a Disease a plague?

A plague is a large-scale disease that affects Humans and other mammals. It is caused by the bacteria *Yersinia Pestis*, and is contracted by coming into contact with the bacteria, usually through infected animal bites or the handling of the infected animal.



The Black Plague

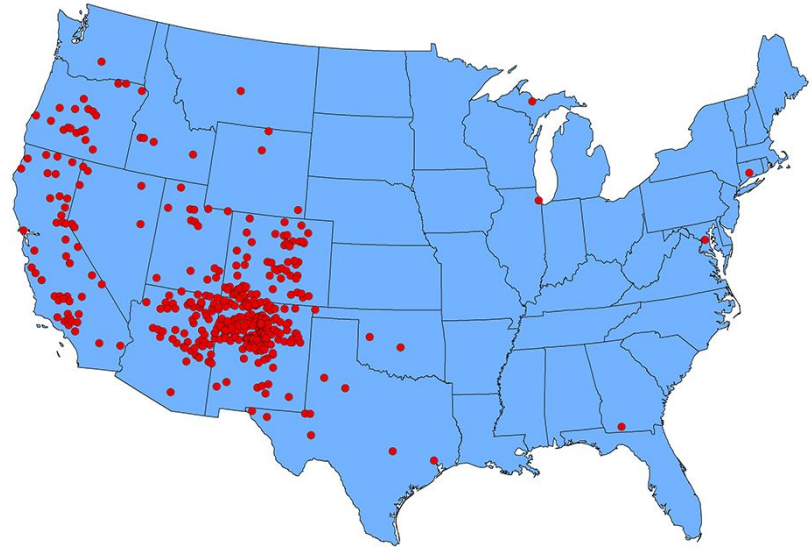
One of the most famous and most deadly plagues in Human history was the Black Plague, which 'plagued' Eastern Europe in 1346. It was spread to Europe on trading ships, in which the rats that snuck onto the ship carried the bacteria in the fleas that infested them. The bacteria infected the lymph nodes of humans, causing symptoms of swelling and nausea, before eventually succumbing to a quick death. It is estimated around 200,000 people died during the Black Plague, making it the most deadly pandemic in human history.

Treatments of plague

During the Black Plague, many treatments were used to try and cure patients, but many were dangerous and had no scientific backing, such as bathing in vinegar or rosewater, or bloodletting. With today's technology, antibiotics and respiratory support can help cure a patient of pneumonic plague.

Plagues Today

While technology and disease prevention has allowed us to mostly avoid *Yersinia Pestis*, there are still cases of plague today, although they are few and far between. In the US, they happen mostly in Western desert areas, where it is warm enough for the bacteria to survive.



1 dot placed in state of residence for each reported plague case

Sources

<https://www.history.com/topics/middle-ages/black-death#how-did-the-black-plague-start>

<https://www.cdc.gov/plague/maps/index.html#:~:text=The%20last%20urban%20plague%20epidemic,scattered%20cases%20in%20rural%20areas.>