

## Lesson 2 – Causes and Symptoms

LO: To describe features of the Bubonic plague by looking at the causes and symptoms

### Background information:

From last lesson, we learnt that the Black Death was spread through trading ports and was brought to the Europe through ships whilst they traded goods. But what actually passed the disease from one person to the other?

There were three types of plagues, the Bubonic plague, pneumonic plague (this attacked the lungs. Victims died quickly, in one or two days) and the septicaemic Plague (this infected the blood). The Bubonic plague was the most common at the time. It often caused large swellings as the body fought the disease. To catch this type of plague you had to be bitten by a flea that had already bitten a black rat. The fleas would suck blood from the black rats and then suck the blood from humans, which transferred over the germs, and bacteria that caused the plague.

### Key Vocabulary

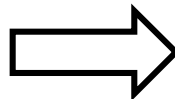
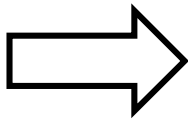
**Symptom** - a physical or mental feature that shows that a person has an illness or a disease.

Example: Symptoms for a cold are a runny nose, sneezing, fever etc.

Brain dump – Mind-map everything you can remember from last lesson, check your work before moving on.

Task 1: Put the cards below in chronological order and then using the cards label the diagram below to see how humans caught the Black Death and how it spread. One has been done for you

Fleas would suck the blood of the rats.	The fleas infected other rats and humans with the plague. Soon almost half the people in England were dead.	The flea would pass on the plague germs to the human, which would make them ill and eventually kill them.
When the human died, the flea jumped onto another rat or human. The flea would bite another human.	The plague germs lived in the blood of a rat. This made the rats very sick.	When the rats died, the fleas jumped onto humans and would bite the humans to suck on their blood.



The plague came from germs called *Pasteurella pestis*.

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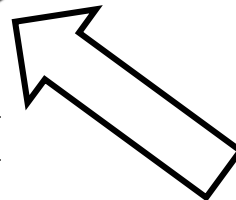
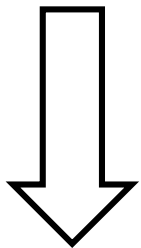
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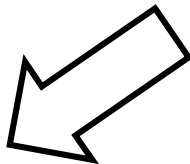
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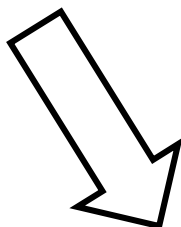
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Above you can see what actually caused the Black Death however, during this period people did not have understanding of germs and diseases and also did not know what was causing the disease therefore people had varying beliefs as to what caused it.

**Task 2: Using the sources write down one thing that you can infer about what people believed caused the disease.**

**Source A by a Medieval Italian writer**

**'In Christian Europe, people believed that the plague was punishment from God for the sins of all Christians'.**

One thing I can infer from source A is:

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I know this because within the source it states:

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**Source B: From a book written in 1349**

**'In many German cities, Jews were thought to have caused the death by poisoning the water supply. Many Jewish men, women and children burned to death for this'.**

One thing I can infer from source B is:

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I know this because within the source it states:

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**Source C: Based on a report written by doctors at Paris University in 1348.**

**'The long term cause is the position of the planets. It is also caused by evil smells which mix with the air and spread on the wind. When you breathe in the corrupted air you can catch the plague'.**

One thing I can infer from source C is:

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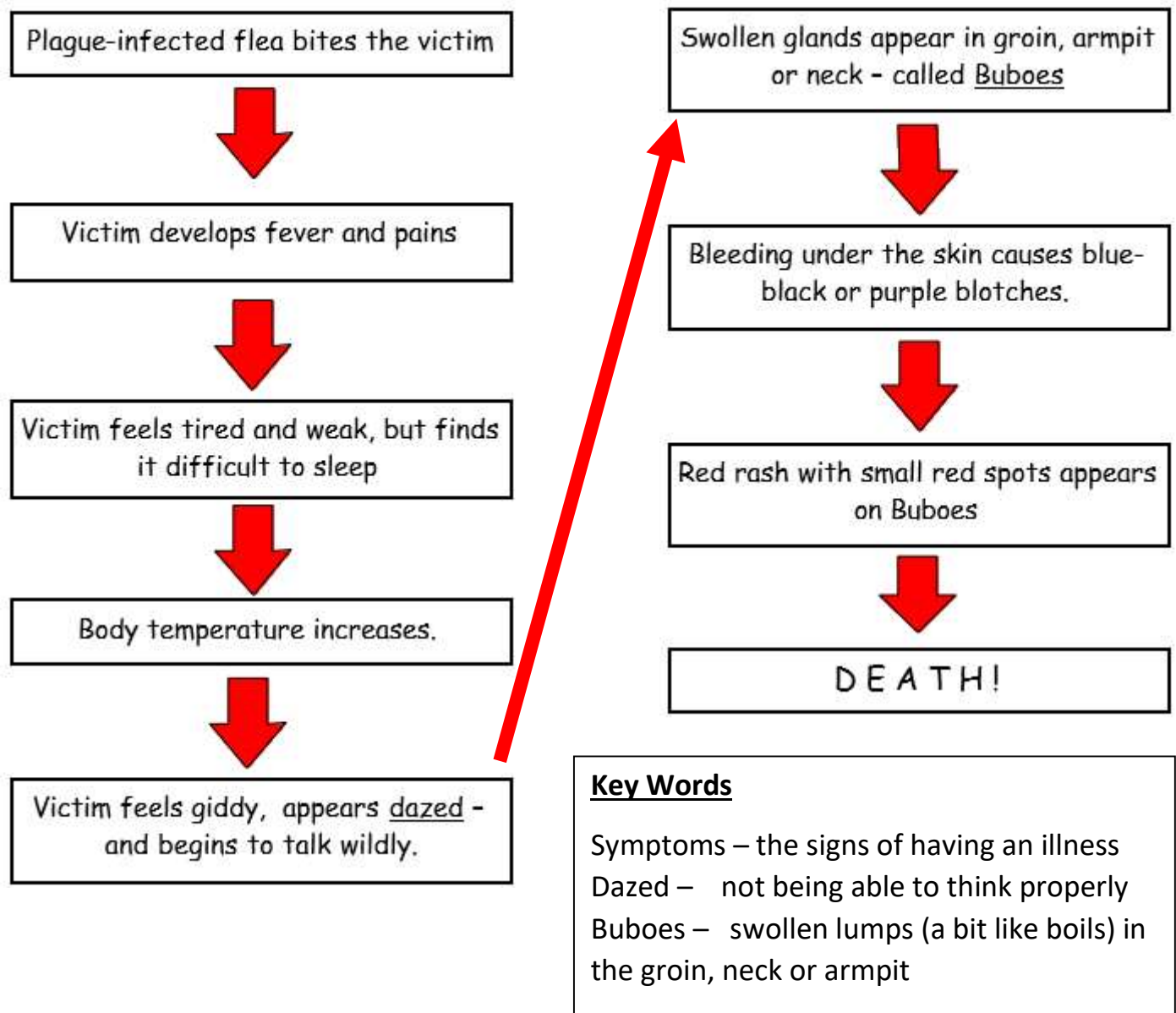
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I know this because within the source it states:

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Task 3: Now that you know how the disease spread from fleas/rats to humans, let's look at the symptoms. Using the symptom cards answer the questions below and label the diagram.



Above you can see all the symptoms of the plague, from when the flea bites the victim until the victim dies. A person suffering from Bubonic Plague may die within 4 to 7 days of first showing symptoms. The plague killed 50%-75% of its victims.

## Questions

How did a person get the disease?

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How long did it take to die from the plague?

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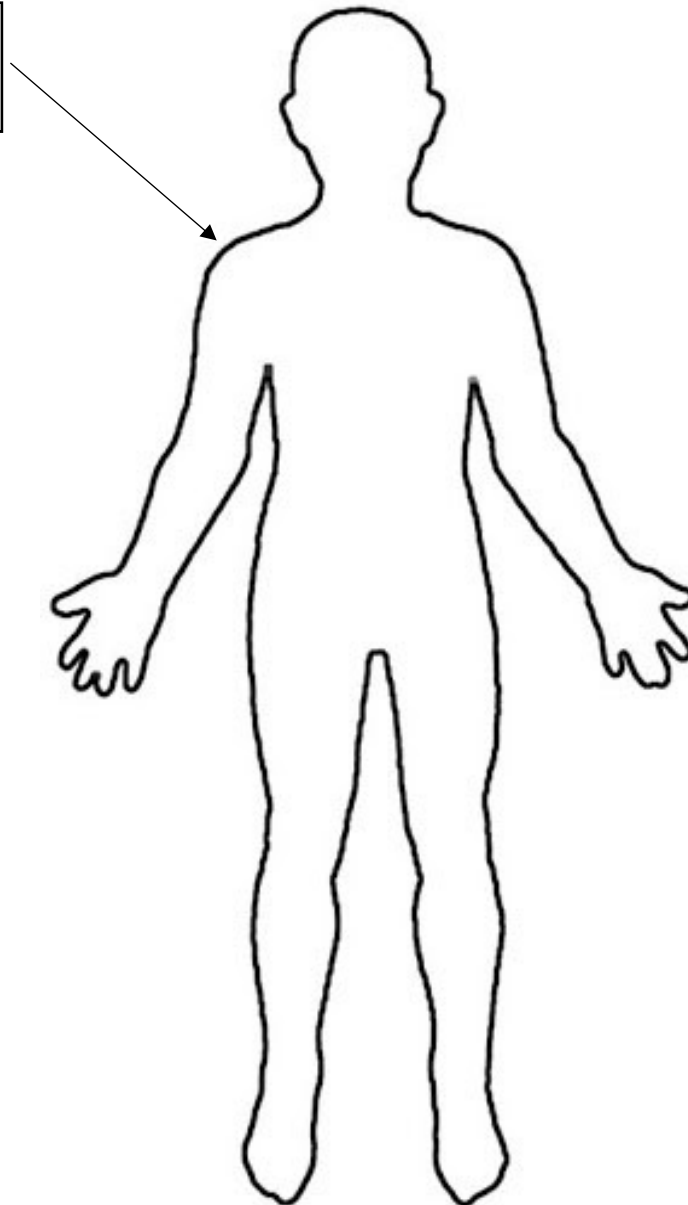
What percentage of victims often died from the plague?

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Label/draw the different symptoms of the plague on the diagram below. Make sure to number each stage. One has been done for you.

Plague-infected flea  
bites the victim



#### Task 4: Reflect- Complete the Multiple choice questions

What is the correct definition for symptom?		
a physical or mental feature which shows that a person has an illness or a disease.	a physical or mental feature which shows that a person is fit and well	a physical or mental feature which indicates that a person is cured from a disease
What was the Black Death caused by?		
A mouse and an ant	A black rat and a flea	A black rat
How many types of plagues were there?		
3	4	5
What are some symptoms of the Bubonic Plague?		
Swollen glands called buboes	High fever as body temperature increases	Bleeding underneath the skin

#### Task 5: Describe two features of the Bubonic Plague (this can include symptoms or causes)

Identify first feature:

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Describe the feature by adding detail:

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Identify second feature:

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Describe the feature by adding detail:

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Review: summarise what you have learnt in today's lesson by adding to you "Brain dump" at the start of the lesson using a different colour pen if you can. If there is anything, you are not sure on you can write some questions below and email them to your teacher for more help.