

## Lesson 3 – Treatments

LO: To describe the different cures and treatments people tried to get rid of the Black Death

### Background information:

From last lesson, we learnt what caused the Black Death, the causes that people believed at the time and the symptoms people developed once they got the disease. Within this lesson we will be looking at the different types of cures/treatments people tried to get rid of the disease.

In the 1347 - 1350 outbreak, doctors were completely confused about the Black Death and were desperate to find a cure. Therefore, a number of them tried a range of different cures as they were getting desperate to be rid of this deadly disease. Examples of the treatments were 'Blood-letting' – deliberately bleeding of a vein to try and reduce 'hot' blood, whilst blowing your nose or clearing your throat was a way of getting rid of too much 'cold' phlegm. Mustard, mint sauce, apple sauce and horseradish were used to balance wet, dry, hot and cold in your diet! These were only a few of the unusual remedies tried.

### Key Vocabulary

**Treatment** - the use of drugs, exercises, etc. to improve the condition of an ill or injured person, or to cure a disease.

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

**Task 1: Using the sources complete the table below looking at the different treatments people tried and how effective they were**

<p><b>Source 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People were encouraged to carry a bunch of herbs and hold it to your nostrils at all times.</li> <li>• People burned sweet-smelling wood in their houses to mask the bad smell.</li> <li>• People did not go near stagnant (still) water, slaughter houses or rubbish heaps.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Source 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sick were forced to leave the village</li> <li>• Those that were infected were locked up in their houses</li> <li>• Some even ran away such as The Bishop of Winchester.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Source 3:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People were encouraged to bury or burn the clothes of the plague victims.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Source 4:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The disease must be in the blood. The veins leading to the heart should be cut open and bled. This was called blood-letting. This will allow the disease to leave the body. An ointment made of clay and violets should be applied to the place where the cuts have been made.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Source 5:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People prayed to God and asked him to forgive them</li> <li>• In London people walked through the streets singing hymns and whipping each other to show how sorry they are</li> <li>• Thousands of people went on pilgrimages to Canterbury , Walsingham and other holy places</li> </ul>	<p><b>Source 6:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims of the Black Death would often be bathed in urine several times a day to relieve the symptoms of the plague.</li> <li>• The buboes (sores) were cut open, and a paste was applied. The paste was made from a mixture of tree resins, flower roots, and poo.</li> <li>• If a person gets the disease, they must be put to bed. They should be washed with vinegar and rose water.</li> </ul>

Source	Describe the treatment or cure	Why did people think this would work?	How likely is this actually going to help? (0-5) Explain your reasoning
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2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

## Task 2: Reflect- Complete the Multiple choice questions

What was an example of the cures that doctors tried at the time?		
Cutting the skin to bleed the disease out	Drinking the blood of others	Eating the flesh of a victim
Why did Doctors try these remedies?		
They wanted to test out new treatments on people	They didn't know how to cure or prevent the disease	They were an expert in curing the black death
Why did people carry herbs and burnt sweet smelling wood?		
To mask the bad smells and prevent the disease spreading	Because they liked their houses smelling nice	As good luck
What happened to those that had the disease?		
Worshipped	Locked up in their houses	Allowed to run freely

## Task 3: Analyse the source below and complete the worksheet looking at how useful the source is for historians

Because the disease was such a huge thing during the medieval period, there are a number of sources that talk about the Black Death. Along with written sources, there are a number of images from the time period.

**Source A: A 14<sup>th</sup> century German wood cut showing the Black Death**



**1) What is the source and where is it from?**

(Nature and Origin)

The source is a:

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The source is written in:

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**3) What does the Source mean? (Meaning)**

EXPLAIN

This source shows me:

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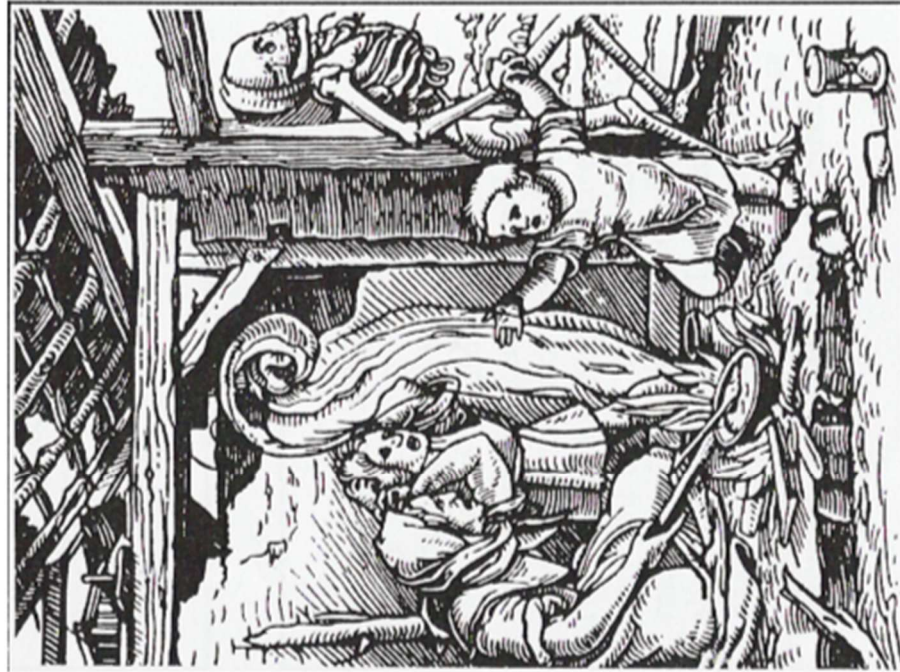
This therefore means:

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How useful is source A to historians studying the Black Death?



Source A: A 14<sup>th</sup> century German wood cut showing the Black Death

**2) What can you see in the source? (Content)**

EVIDENCE

I can see:

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This shows me:

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**3) Why was this source created?**

(Purpose)

This source was created because:

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History Heroes: How useful is this source for Historians?

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#### Task 4: Describe two features of the treatments people tried to cure the Bubonic Plague

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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**History Heroes:** Explain how effective the treatments were that people tried to get rid of the Black Death

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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.