

THE BLACK DEATH

OR
HOW FLEAS DESTROYED HALF OF EUROPE

MORTALITY RATE

100%

50%

0%

THE BIG BAD BACTERIA

Yersinia Pestis is the bacteria responsible for the epidemic that came to be known as the Black Death. The bacteria itself can result in one of three strains of plague. Bubonic, pneumonic and Septicemic.



BUBONIC

The main strain responsible for wiping out half of Europe. This strain effects ones Lymph nodes.



PNEUMONIC

This strain of the plague would affect ones lungs. Untreated this strain would almost always result in death.



SEPTICEMIC

This strain of the plague would effect ones blood. Untreated this infection would result in septicemia.

HOW DID THIS BAD BACTERIA GET AROUND?

A common misconception is that the plague was spread by rats. While this is not completely false, the real culprit was the fleas the rats and some other small rodents carried.

SYMPTOMS OF PLAGUE

BUBOS

SEIZURES

ILLNESS

HIGH FEVER

MUSCLE CRAMPS

GANGRENE

HOW DID THIS ALL HAPPEN?

1333 - Black death in central China

An epidemic in 1333 which would eventually destroy two-thirds of China's population hit the northeastern Chinese province of Hopei. It took up to 90% of the population. About five million Chinese people were hit by this plague. Since China was known as one of the busiest world trading nations, it was only a matter of time before the outbreak of China spread through Western Asia and Europe.



1347 - Black death arrives in Europe

The black death began to devastate Europe when in 1347, 12 ships had docked in the Sicilian port of Messina. The mass crowds that gathered on the docks were horrified to find that almost every crew from each ship had succumbed to some illness and the ones who were still alive were covered in horrid black blisters.

1348 - Black death arrives in London

The Plague eventually reached Bristol which is believed to have been the first city the plague had infected. Soon after followed the infection of London. Due to the high population stuffed into such a cramped city and overall poor hygiene, the plague spread quickly within the settlement swiftly desolating the major city.



1349 - 200 people buried everyday

On November 1st 1348, the Black Death reached London. By February 1349, 200 people were being buried every day. They were buried at the Smithfield graveyard, located in London. People died so quickly the graveyard was nearly piled 5 deep.

1351 - Black death reaches Moscow

After 4 years of sweeping a deadly wave over Europe, the black death eventually makes its way to Moscow. Effectively meaning that all of Europe is now infected by the plague.



DEATH TOLL

While the numbers vary, most historians agree that by the end of the plagues wave across Europe, the death toll was anywhere **50 million - 200 MILLION!** This resulted in the worlds population going from

450 million all the way down to **350 million** decreasing the overall population by

22%

That's a scary number to think about, but what's even scarier is that number included

HALF OF EUROPE



THIS WOULD BE LIKE IF...



TWITTER LOST 31% OF ITS USERS

SNAPCHAT LOST 53% OF ITS USERS

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