

THE BLACK DEATH

OR
HOW FLEAS DESTROYED HALF OF EUROPE

MORTALITY RATE



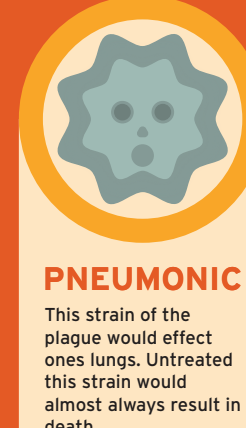
THE BIG BAD BACTERIA

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.



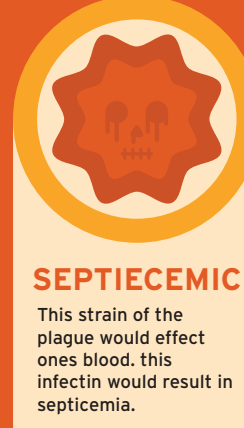
BUBONIC

The main strain responsible for wiping out half of Europe. This strain affects one's lymph nodes.



PNEUMONIC

This strain of the plague would affect one's lungs. Untreated, this strain would almost always result in death.

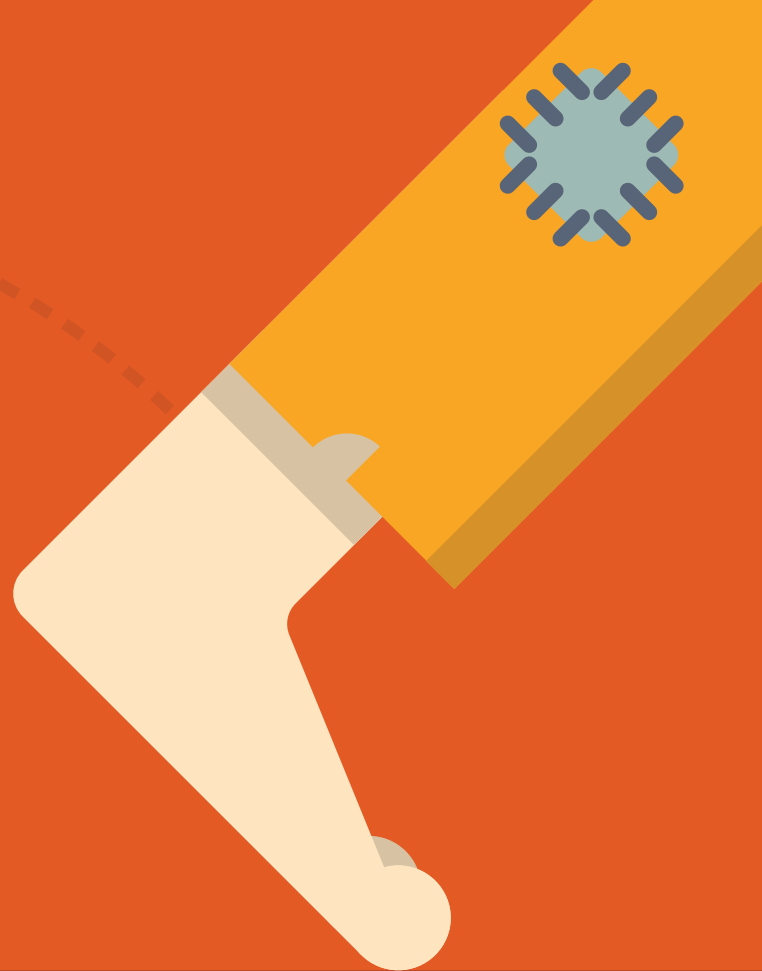


SEPTICEMIC

This strain of the plague would affect one's blood. This infection would result in septicemia.



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 rodents carried.



SYMPTOMS

BUBOS

ILLNESS

MUSCLE CRAMPS

SEIZURES

HIGH FEVER

GANGRENE

HOW DID THIS ALL HAPPEN?

1333 — Black death in central china

An epidemic in 1333 which would eventually destroyed two-thirds of China's population hit the northeastern Chinese province of Hopedi. 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 each ship had succumbed to some illness and the ones who were still alive were covered in black boils.



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 density and overall poor hygiene, the plague spread quickly with the city 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, people died so quickly the graveyard was neatly piled 5 deep. Smithfield is located in London.



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 world's population going from **450 million** all the way down to **350 million** decreasing the overall population by

22%

This included more than

HALF OF EUROPE

