

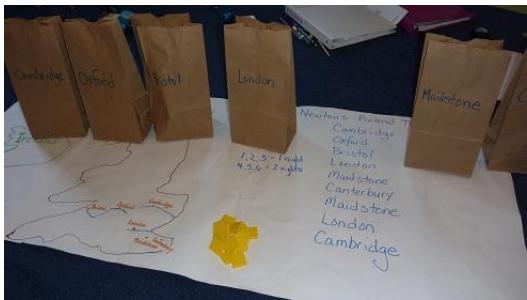
# Black Plague Activity

When Isaac Newton was at Cambridge University, the school had to shut down because of an outbreak of the plague. Pretend that Newton went on a trip during this time and traveled to the following cities:

- Cambridge
- Oxford
- Bristol
- London
- Maidstone
- Canterbury
- Maidstone
- London
- Cambridge



**Setting Up For the Game:** We learned that as much as 20% of London's population may have died from the plague. With this in mind, we placed 2 red tiles (plague) and 8 blue tiles in the London bag. We did the same for Oxford and Bristol since they are on a river (and may have been infected as ships came to port). For Cambridge, Maidstone and Canterbury we placed just one plague/red tile and 9 blue tiles.



**Playing the Game:** Each player takes a turn making the entire journey. The first player starts off in Cambridge. She rolls the die. A roll of 1,2,3 means she stays one night in the town. A roll of 4,5,6 means she stays two nights. Without looking in the bag, she pulls out

one or two tiles for the nights she'll be staying. If it is blue she has not contracted the plague during her stay. (Place the tiles back in the bag.) Continue on to the next town.



If she pulls a red tile (put the tile back in the bag) then she continues on to the next two towns. She rolls the die for the next town she visits. A roll of 1,2,3 means she places one yellow (plague) tile in the bag. A roll of 4,5,6 means she places two yellow (plague) tiles in the bag.

She continues to the second town, rolls the die and places one or two yellow tiles in the bag and ‘dies of the plague.’ Her trip (and her turn) has ended.

Now it is the second player’s turn—again starting in Cambridge and trying to make it as far along as he can without contracting the plague and spreading it.



The more players that contract the plague, the more the plague is spread. The kids can see that as they see the accumulation of more yellow tiles in the bag.

This activity is adapted from a simulation I saw at  
<http://www.people.ku.edu/~kcormack/Plague%20Lesson.pdf>

That pdf has some excellent pictures of the different types of plague.

# Year: 1665



## Black Plague in London

First Week of June: 43 deaths

First Week of July: 470 deaths

First Week of August: 2010 deaths

First Week of September: 7165 deaths



Source: [http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/london\\_deaths\\_1665.htm](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/london_deaths_1665.htm)