

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. Which of the following is an opinion the author may have about the Black Death?
 - Ⓐ It affected only cities and did not affect rural areas.
 - Ⓑ It lasted ten years and finally slowed after doctors discovered a cure.
 - Ⓒ It was the scariest way to die in the Middle Ages.
 - Ⓓ It started in North Africa and spread to Europe through ships and sailors.
2. What caused the spread of the plague?
 - Ⓐ infected rodents bringing dirt into people's homes
 - Ⓑ fleas biting infected rodents and then biting people
 - Ⓒ stray cats living in alleyways and garbage dumps
 - Ⓓ stray cats eating infected rodents and then living with people
3. Which period in Europe's history came after the Black Death?
 - Ⓐ the Renaissance
 - Ⓑ the Dark Ages
 - Ⓒ the Middle Ages
 - Ⓓ the Stone Age
4. What is the main idea of the section titled "The Plague Ships"?
 - Ⓐ The Black Death claimed the lives of nearly 60 percent of Londoners.
 - Ⓑ Bubonic plague bacteria started attacking the lymph nodes in the neck, groin, and underarms of the people.
 - Ⓒ The Black Death was spread through a person's blood, pus, or spit.
 - Ⓓ Trading ships that docked in Italy brought the Black Death with them.

Quick Check continued on following page

Name _____ Date _____

5. What are **viruses**?

- Ⓐ thick, yellowish-white liquids that are produced by infected tissue
- Ⓑ small fleas that drink the blood of rodents
- Ⓒ microscopic organisms that infect the body
- Ⓓ specific signs of illness or injury

6. What was the author's purpose for writing this book?

- Ⓐ to persuade readers that the discovery of penicillin was the greatest discovery of our time
- Ⓑ to persuade readers that the Black Death was the worst outbreak of disease in Europe's history
- Ⓒ to inform readers about the Black Death and its impact on Europe
- Ⓓ to inform readers about the importance of modern medicine to kill bacteria

7. How does the map on page 3 help readers better understand the spread of the Black Plague?

- Ⓐ It shows the symptoms of the Black Plague based on location.
- Ⓑ It shows the dates in which different areas of Europe were affected.
- Ⓒ It shows the death toll in each part of Europe in the 1300s.
- Ⓓ It shows the parts of Europe that were overrun with fleas and rats.

8. What is one way the people of Europe thought diseases spread in the 1300s?

- Ⓐ the alignment of the planets
- Ⓑ bacteria or viruses
- Ⓒ rodent bites
- Ⓓ leaving trash on the street

9. What is the genre of this story?

- Ⓐ historical myth
- Ⓑ historical fiction
- Ⓒ historical mystery
- Ⓓ historical nonfiction

Quick Check continued on following page

Name _____ Date _____

10. What does **sanitation** mean?

- Ⓐ the act, process, or facilities used to keep a place clean or remove waste
- Ⓑ the sudden spread of something unwelcome
- Ⓒ a state of extreme hunger or dying because of lack of food
- Ⓓ a substance that releases a pleasant smell when burned

11. **Extended Response:** Explain how and why the Black Death spread throughout Europe.

12. **Extended Response:** If penicillin had been invented in the 1300s, would the Black Death have happened? Why or why not?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

The Plague!

Main Comprehension Skill: Cause and Effect

1. Ⓒ *Fact or Opinion*
2. Ⓑ *Cause and Effect*
3. Ⓐ *Sequence Events*
4. Ⓓ *Main Idea and Details*
5. Ⓒ *Vocabulary*
6. Ⓒ *Author's Purpose*
7. Ⓑ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
8. Ⓐ *Cause and Effect*
9. Ⓓ *Identify Genre*
10. Ⓐ *Vocabulary*
11. Answers should include that sailors from Asia brought the Black Death to Europe and that the disease spread through fleas that bit infected rodents and then bit people. Answers should also include that the disease spread so quickly because the people did not understand that viruses and bacteria caused diseases, and there was no medicine to stop the disease.
12. Answers will vary but should include the students' opinion and details from the text to support their opinion.