

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. What was the author's purpose for writing this book?
  - Ⓐ to persuade readers that Alexander Fleming was the greatest scientist of our time
  - Ⓑ to persuade readers that the Black Death was preventable if Europeans had better sanitation conditions
  - Ⓒ to inform readers about the Black Death and its impact on the history of Europe
  - Ⓓ to inform readers about the importance of modern medicine to kill bacteria and prevent the spread of disease
2. 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 on 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.
3. Which period in Europe's history came after the Black Death?
  - Ⓐ the Renaissance
  - Ⓑ the Dark Ages
  - Ⓒ the Middle Ages
  - Ⓓ the Stone Age

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4. What is a detail from the section titled "Death Stalks Europe"?
  - Ⓐ Trading ships that docked in Italy brought the Black Death with them in 1347.
  - Ⓑ The Black Death slowed in 1351 for reasons unknown to historians.
  - Ⓒ The period following the Black Death was a time of revival in Europe.
  - Ⓓ Historians estimate that only one in five people infected with the plague survived.
5. What are **bacteria**?
  - Ⓐ specific signs of illness or injury
  - Ⓑ cleanliness for the purpose of staying healthy
  - Ⓒ a system that moves antibodies through the body to fight infection
  - Ⓓ small one-celled organisms that sometimes cause infections and disease
6. What caused the spread of the plague?
  - Ⓐ infected rodents biting people and living in their houses
  - Ⓑ 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
7. What caused widespread food shortages and starvation after the Black Death?
  - Ⓐ All the money was going toward research to find a cure for the plague.
  - Ⓑ There were not enough peasants to work the fields and take care of the livestock.
  - Ⓒ Royalty forbade peasants from touching the food in case they were infected.
  - Ⓓ The food was infected with the plague, just like the people.

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8. Which of the following is an opinion the author may have about the Black Death?
  - Ⓐ It affected only European cities and not rural areas.
  - Ⓑ It lasted for ten years and slowed once doctors discovered a cure.
  - Ⓒ It was the scariest way to die in the Middle Ages.
  - Ⓓ It began in North Africa and spread to Europe through trading ships.
9. Which of the following events occurred in 1347?
  - Ⓐ Pope Clement VI issued a declaration that Jews were not at fault for the Black Death.
  - Ⓑ The Black Death spread to North Africa.
  - Ⓒ The Peasants' Revolt began, which was a major uprising against the upper class.
  - Ⓓ The Black Death arrived in Italy through trading ships.
10. What does **infect** mean?
  - Ⓐ the act, process, or facilities used to keep a place clean or remove waste
  - Ⓑ different because of a mysterious or unusual quality
  - Ⓒ to spread a disease-causing organism to another person, animal, or plant
  - Ⓓ a code that carries genetic information about a living thing
11. **Extended Response:** How did the Black Death spread throughout Europe, and why did it spread so quickly? Explain.
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. Ⓒ *Author's Purpose*
2. Ⓑ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
3. Ⓐ *Sequence Events*
4. Ⓓ *Main Idea and Details*
5. Ⓓ *Vocabulary*
6. Ⓑ *Cause and Effect*
7. Ⓑ *Cause and Effect*
8. Ⓒ *Fact or Opinion*
9. Ⓓ *Sequence Events*
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.