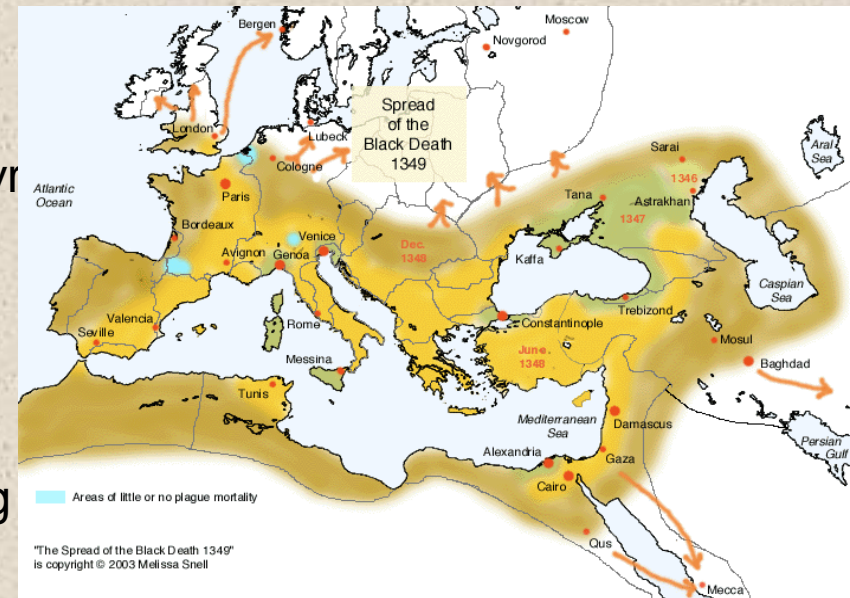


The Black Death



Just the Facts

- Between 1347 – 1352, the Black Death killed 25 m people or 1/3 of Europe's population
 - It took five hundred years before Europe's population reached pre-plague levels
- Black Death also referred to as the Bubonic Plague & Pestilence
 - The Grim Reaper (Skeleton on horseback) is often depicted as the Black Death
- Most of Europe was hit hard, but a few areas were hardly affected
 - Florence: 65% - 75% of pop killed in 1yr
 - Milan: Very few cases and deaths
- The plague was NOT the only disaster which effected Europe in the 1300s
 - Man Made: 100yrs War and Great Schism
 - Natural: Crop failures + Global Cooling + Population Increases = Famines



Just the Facts

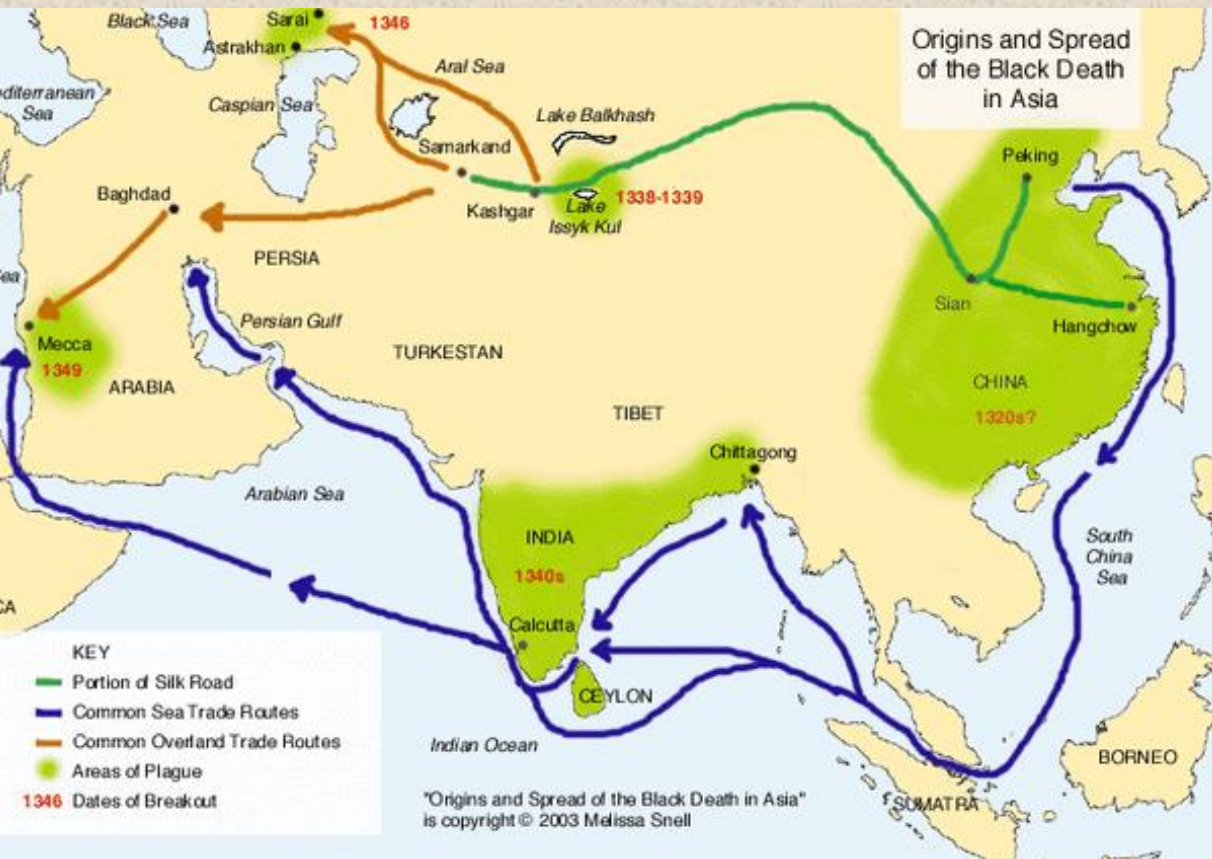


- Symptoms: Chills, fever, headache, painful swellings called buboes in lymph glands, and blackish spots on the skin
 - Symptoms to death: 24 hrs to 4 days
 - Death Rate = 75%
- The three forms of the Black Death
 - Bubonic - Infection of the lymph glands
 - 60% fatal
 - Pneumonic - Respiratory infection
 - Nearly 100% fatal
 - Septicaemic - Infection of the blood
 - Nearly 100% fatal
- The two big fears generated by the plague: Uncertainly / Afterlife





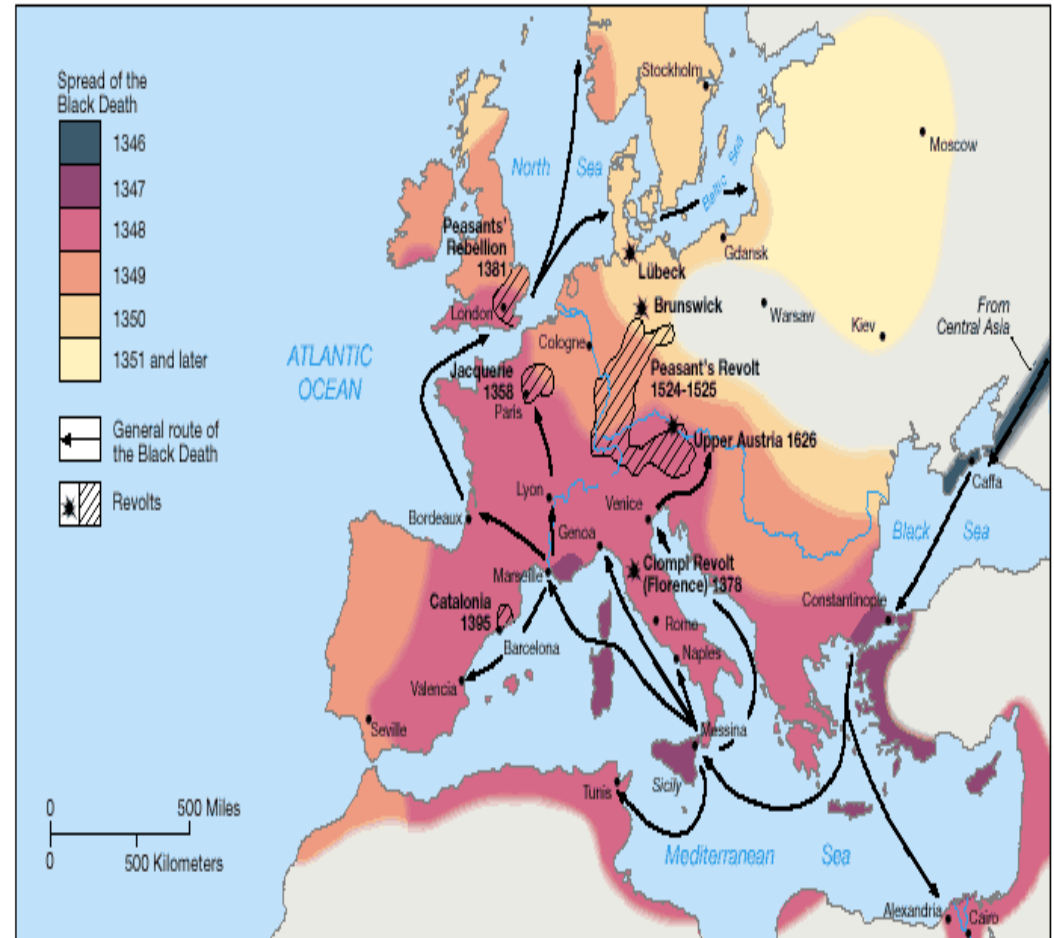
The Origin of the Black Death




- Began in Asia
 - Gobi Desert
- The Mongols (Barbarians) carried the disease into China
 - In China, it killed 2/3 of their population
- From China, it spread throughout Asia following the established trade routes to the Middle East

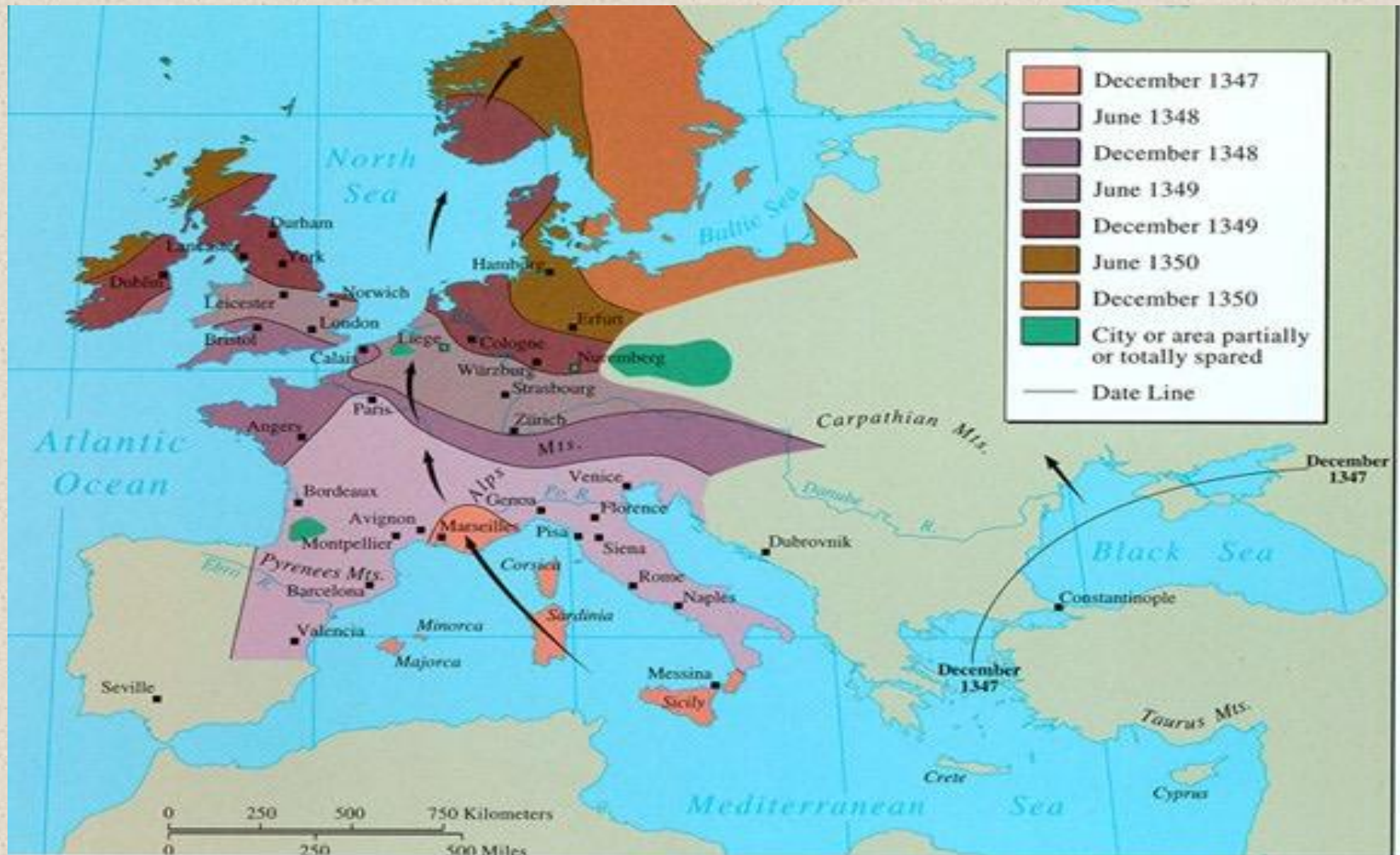
The Origin of the Black Death

- 1347 – A Mongolian Army besieged Kaffa
- The Mongolian Army was dying of the Black Death
 - The disease spread to Italian merchants when the Mongols used “biological warfare”
- When the merchants returned home they unknowingly brought the plague with them
- In Europe, the disease followed trade routes
 - The disease traveled by ship as readily as by land
 - France, Germany, England, Italy, and Spain hit hard



 Spread of the Black Death. Spread by merchants and travelers, the plague killed more than a third of Europe's population within five years.

The Spreading of the Black Death



Quotes from the Plague

"Neither physicians nor medicines were effective. Whether because these illnesses were previously unknown or because physicians had not previously studied them, there seemed to be no cure. There was such a fear that no one seemed to know what to do. When it took hold in a house it often happened that no one remained who had not died. And it was not just that men and women died, but even animals died. Dogs, cats, chickens, oxen, donkeys sheep showed the same symptoms and died of the same disease. And almost none, or very few, who showed these symptoms, were cured. The symptoms were the following: a bubo in the groin, where the thigh meets the trunk; or a small swelling under the armpit; sudden fever; spitting blood and saliva (and no one who spit blood survived it). It was such a frightful thing that when it got into a house, as was said, no one remained. Frightened people abandoned the house and fled to another."

Marchione di Coppo Stefani

What to do with the bodies?!

Plague bearers would collect bodies at night (to avoid further contamination for a fee shouting “[Bring out your dead!](#)” through the village.

-Cemetery grounds were full so Pope Clement VI had to consecrate the Rhone River so bodies could be thrown in for a decent burial



The Believed Causes



- God's Wrath
 - Comets
 - Planets in formation
- Earthquakes
 - Released deadly gases
- The Jews
 - continued...



Blamed the Jews

Some believed Jews had poisoned the wells

Jews were killed by thrown in fire, thrown down wells, Jewish communities destroyed

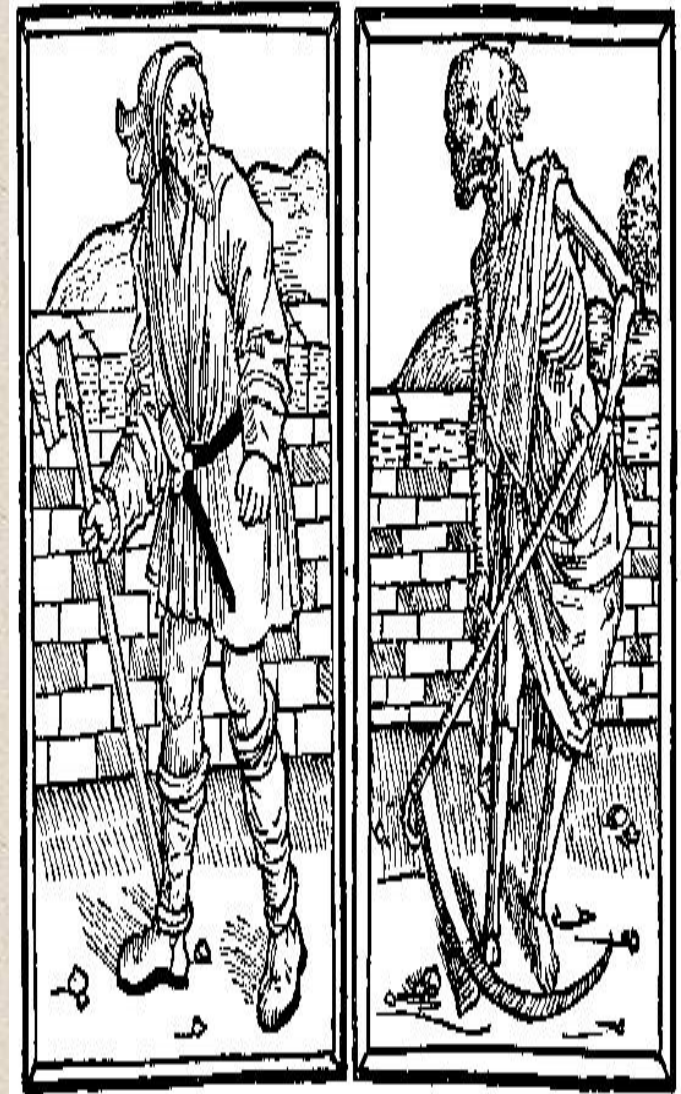
Pope Clement VI declared if any one blamed the Jews he was “seduced by that liar, the Devil” and urged to keep them safe



Quotes from the Plague

"How many valiant men, how many fair ladies, breakfast with their kinfolk and the same night supped with their ancestors in the next world! The condition of the people was pitiable to behold. They sickened by the thousands daily, and died unattended and without help. Many died in the open street, others dying in their houses, made it known by the stench of their rotting bodies. Consecrated churchyards did not suffice for the burial of the vast multitude of bodies, which were heaped by the hundreds in vast trenches, like goods in a ships hold and covered with a little earth."

Giovanni Boccaccio





The Plague Doctor

Plague Doctor

These doctor were to treat the plague victims of the town but were often not highly trained.

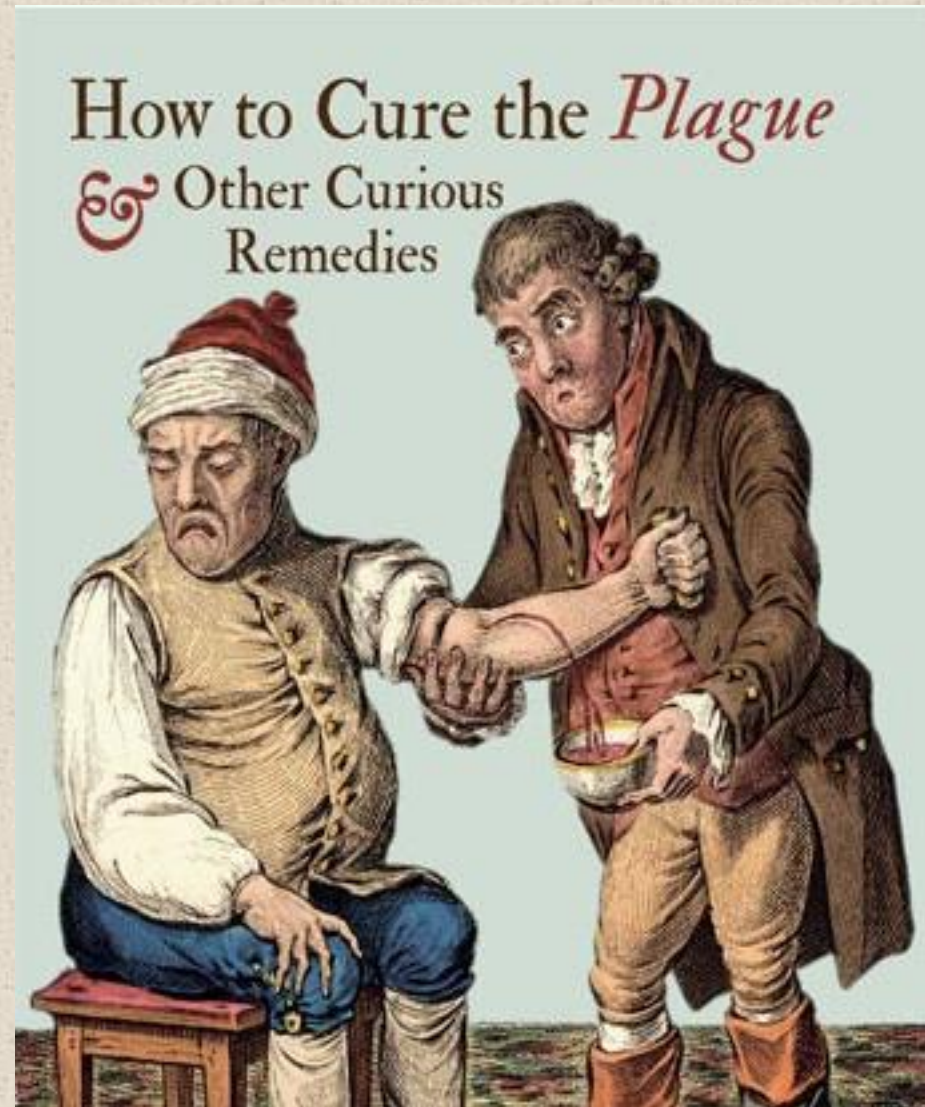
In 17th & 18th century some wore a beak-like mask filled with aromatic items which was supposed to protect them from “contaminated air”

Wooden can was used to help the patient without having to touch him. Also, at the patient’s request, used for whipping the patient as punishment for sins since the plague was often believed a cause of sins.

One famous plague doctor was Nostradamus



- Lancing the buboes
- Bleeding
- Sit next to a blazing hot fire, in the summer of 1348
- Bathing in human urine
- Drinking two glasses a day of urine
- Wearing of excrement



Cures for the Black Death

Cures continued



- Use of leeches
- Place dead animals in house
- Drinking of molten gold
- Shaving a live chicken's bum and strapping it to the bubo (welt)

The Scientific Causes

Flea drinks rat blood
that carries the bacteria



Bacteria multiply
in flea's gut

- Poor conditions in Europe
 - Diet, housing & hygiene
- Mass movement of people along trade routes
 - People moved from countryside to cities
- Rats to Fleas
 - Fleas to Humans

Human is infected



Gut clogged
with bacteria



Flea bites human,
regurgitates blood
into open wound



Black Death Art



“Ring around the Rosie”



“Ring around the rosie”

“A pocketful of poise”

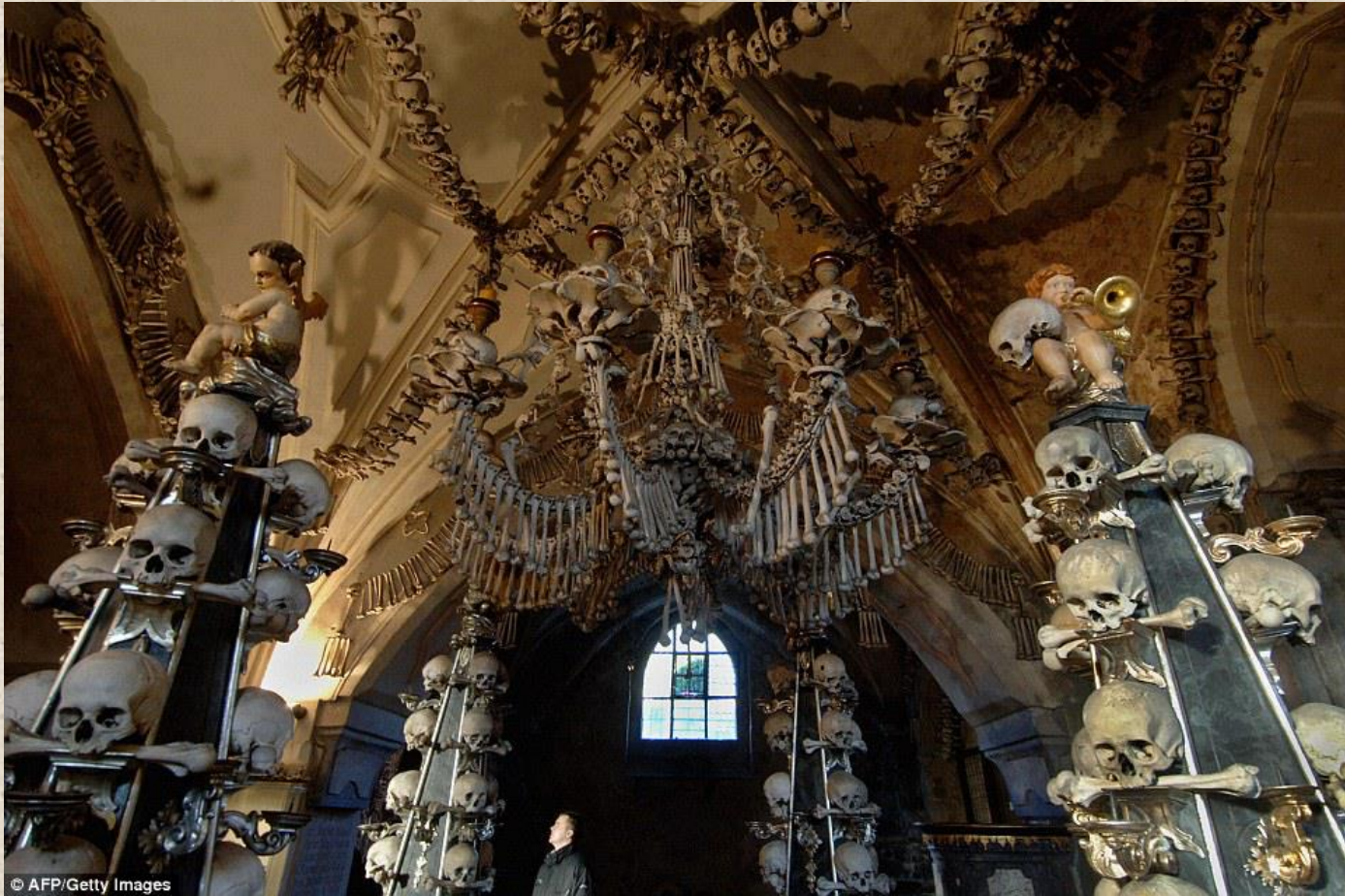
“ti-shoo, ti-shoo”

“We all fall down”

The Effects of the Black Death

- Ended feudalism in Europe
 - Town populations fell
 - Workers were very scared
 - Peasants rebelled
 - Start of money economy
- Church losses power & prestige
 - The Church had no answers
 - Prayers and penance didn't work
 - Most religious leaders deserted the people
 - Charged high fees to perform services for the dying
- New attitudes toward life
 - “Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow you may die”
 - Increased nationalism
 - Black Death cut across class lines
- Ended Medieval Society

Fact Fact & Travel Spot



The Sedluc Ossuary, also known as the “Bone Church” is a small Roman Catholic Church in the Czech Republic today.

It is decorated with the bones of 40,000-70,000 people, many of whom died during the Black Plague.



