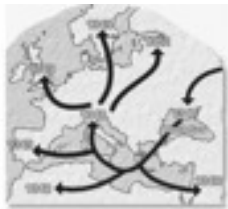


Name: _____

The BLACK PLAGUE:

An Epidemic Simulation



The Plague's Progress

The “Black Plague”, also known as the bubonic plague or Black Death, reached Italy, from the east, in the spring of 1348 and spread through Europe over the next three years, killing between 25% and 50% of the population. Its victims died within 3-7 days after the appearance of tumors the size of an egg or apple on the skin.

Giovanni Goccaccio lived through the plague as it ravaged his hometown of Florence, Italy in 1348. He wrote the following description of the effects of the epidemic:

“The violence of this disease was such that the sick communicated it to the healthy who came near them, just as a fire catches anything dry or oily near it. To speak to or go near the sick brought infection and a common death to the living; and moreover, to touch the clothes or anything else the sick had touched or worn gave the disease to the person touching.”

“One citizen avoided another, hardly any neighbor troubled about others . . . such terror was struck into the hearts of men and women by this calamity, that brother abandoned brother . . . and very often the wife her husband. What is even worse and nearly incredible is that fathers and mothers refused to see and tend their children, as if they had not been theirs.

“In this suffering and misery of our city, the authority of human and divine laws almost disappeared, for like other men, the ministers and the executors of the laws were all dead or sick or shut up with their families, so that no duties were carried out. Every man was therefore able to do as he pleased.

“Dead bodies filled every corner. Most of them were treated in the same manner by the survivors, who were more concerned to get rid of their rotting bodies than moved by charity towards the dead.”

“The Black Death, 1348,” EyeWitness to History, www.eyewitnesstohistory.com (2001).

Use this website: <http://7thgradeblackdeathsimulation.weebly.com>

Name: _____

Imagine that YOU are traveling to a variety of towns and villages on a pilgrimage (by land) or a trading voyage (by sea) during the month of June in 1349 A.D.. The plague was spread by these trading and pilgrim routes, as travelers went from town to town. Follow these directions, in order, as you travel:

1. Select one of the journeys below. Circle or highlight your chosen trip.

Trade Voyage #1		Pilgrimage #1
Venice to London via boat through the Straits of Gibraltar 1. Florence, Italy 2. Marsala (on Sicily) 3. Rome, Italy 4. Marseille, France 5. Barcelona, Spain 6. Lisbon, Portugal 7. Calais, France 8. London, England		York to Rome across the English Channel and overland 1. London, England 2. Maidstone, England 3. Calais, France 4. Paris, France 5. Dijon, France 6. Lyon, France 7. Genoa, Italy 8. Rome, Italy

2. You are either a lesser noble or a church man or woman, so you have been gifted with an education. Using your rare skill at writing, you will keep a log, or diary, in which you record the details of your travels. **Before embarking on your voyage, copy your itinerary, or a list of places you will visit, into your log.**

3. Follow the following steps for each town you visit on your itinerary.

- When you visit a town or village, you will roll ONE DIE to see how many nights you will spend in that particular place. Several of the villages will have just begun to show evidence of the plague. Record the number of nights in your log.
- Record how you are feeling in your log.

Name: _____

Did you contract the plague?

No, I'm still healthy!



Yes...and I'm contagious :(



4. You may stay longer in your current town by rolling the die again or you can continue on your journey to the next town on your itinerary. Assume that it takes 2 days to travel to your next stop.
5. **Mark your journey on the map with a blue line.**
6. Repeat steps #3, #4, and #5 until you contract the plague or reach your destination.
7. After you return home, complete the questions.

4. You need to:
 - a. mark on your map where you got the plague with a red dot.
 - b. if you roll two ones, continue on your journey.
 - c. if you roll anything other than two ones, mark a black X to show your death.
5. After your death, complete the questions.

My Journey Travel Log

Journey to (final destination): _____

Journey start date: June 1, 1349

Date	Where are you? (City)	How long did you stay?	How do you feel? Health?

Name: _____

1. Total number of days traveling? _____ (°°It takes 2 days to get to each city.)

2. How far did you make it on your journey? How many "travelers" in the class were able survive through their entire journey? What does this say about how many people were able to survive the plague during the Middle Ages?

3. Find three other people in class. In your group, what was the average number of days or towns a person traveled before becoming infected?

4. Is it better to spend more time in fewer towns or be able to travel to many towns over a short time? Why?

5. Why do you think the plague spread so quickly?

6. Which type of trip (land, sea) might be more dangerous and why?

7. Making inferences: How did the lives of the people affected by the Black Death change? How did the survivors respond to this epidemic?

Name: _____

