

The Black Plague

also known as the Black Death



1347 - 1351



Bubonic Plague

painful lymph node swellings, buboes
whole process: 3-5 days
mortality rate: 30-40%

Septicemic Plague

attacked the blood system
1-7 days for symptoms to appear
mortality rate: 90-95%



Pneumonic Plague

attacked the respiratory system
usually died the same day symptoms appeared
mortality rate: close to 100%

Causes of the Plague

Myths



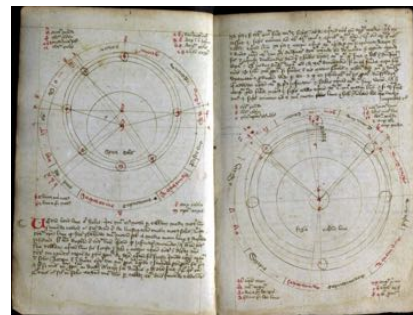
It was a punishment from God.

Foreigners or those of a different religion had poisoned the wells



Bad air

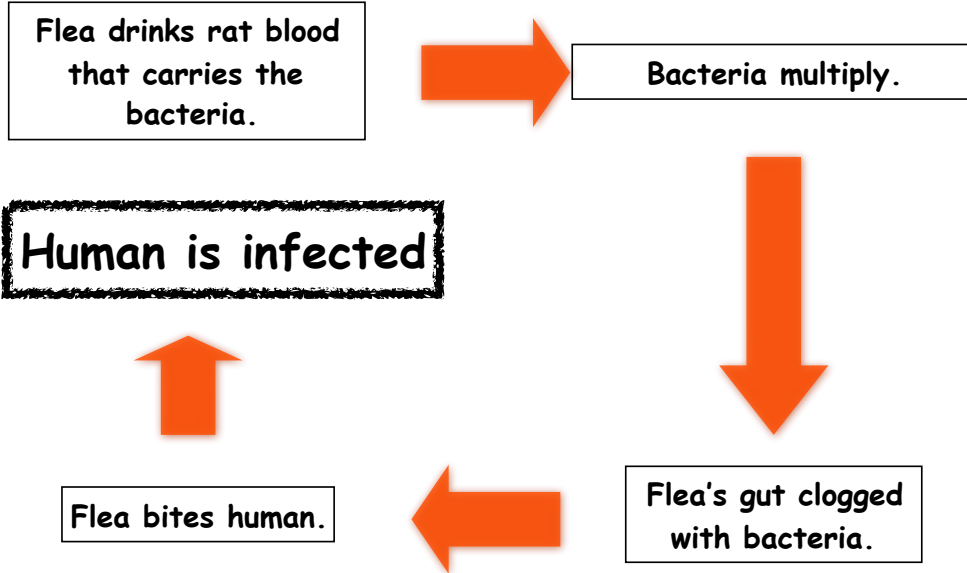
The position of the planets





The Disease Cycle

Transmission of the Bubonic and Septicemic Plagues was often through direct contact with a flea



Flea drinks rat blood that carries the bacteria.

Bacteria multiply.

Human is infected

Flea bites human.

Flea's gut clogged with bacteria.

Attempts to Stop the Plague



A Doctor's Robe



Flagellanti: self-inflicted "penance" for sins



"Leeching"



"Golden Circle" obligatory badge

Pogroms against Jews



Why did the plague hit Europe so hard?

By 1300 Europeans were farming as much land as they could cultivate.

There were three years of crop failures between 1315-17.



Some villages lost up to 15% of their peasant population.

There was a lack of sanitation procedures for keeping towns clean.

The Bubonic Plague wiped out one-third of Europe's population between 1347 and 1351 - only 4 years!





Day 1 Painful swellings called buboes appeared in the victim's armpits and groin. These were usually about the size of an egg, but could sometimes be as big as an apple.



Day 4 The disease attacked the nervous system. This caused the victim to suffer spasms. The victim was in terrible pain.



Day 2 The victim vomited and developed a fever.



Day 5 Sometimes the buboes burst and a foul-smelling black liquid oozed from the open boils. When this happened the victim usually lived. However, in most cases the victim suffered a painful death.



Day 3 Bleeding under the skin caused dark blotches all over the body.

Buboes – swollen lumps in the groin,
Neck, or armpit