

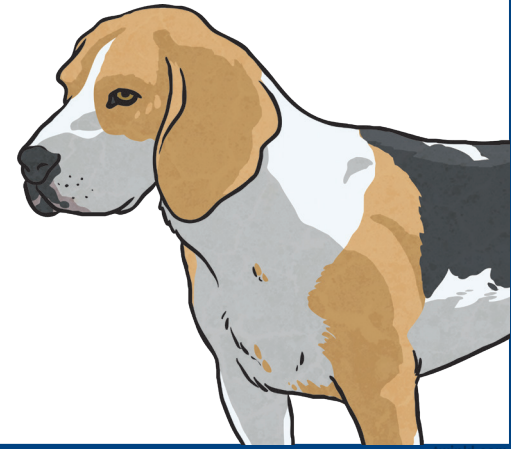


The Great Plague Challenge Cards

The Great Plague

1. During the Great Plague, the Mayor of London ordered that dogs and cats should be killed.

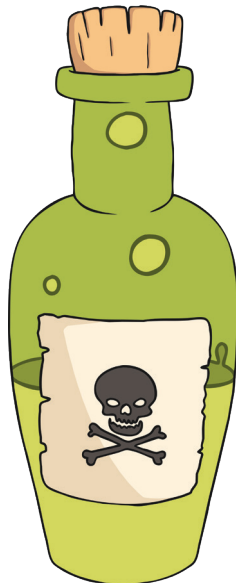
What effect do you think this had on the spread of the plague and why?



The Great Plague

2. Doctors were scared of catching the plague if they treated people. Can you find out what they did to prevent infection?

Draw and label a diagram to show a way people tried to prevent the plague from spreading.



The Great Plague

3. In 1348, there had been an outbreak of the plague known as the Black Death which killed thousands of people.



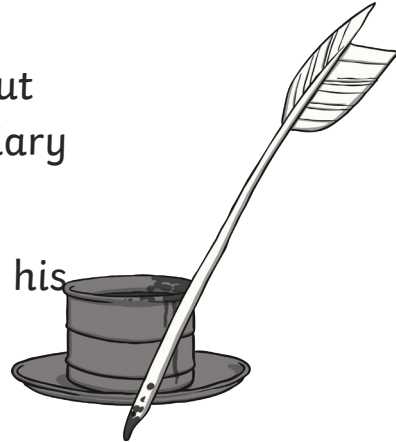
Can you research this time and find out, what this outbreak was called and how it affected people?

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4. We know a lot about the Great Plague because of the diary of Samuel Pepys.

What can you find out about Pepys? Can you find any diary entries he made?

Summarise an extract from his diary.



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5. What did the houses and buildings in London look like during the seventeenth century?

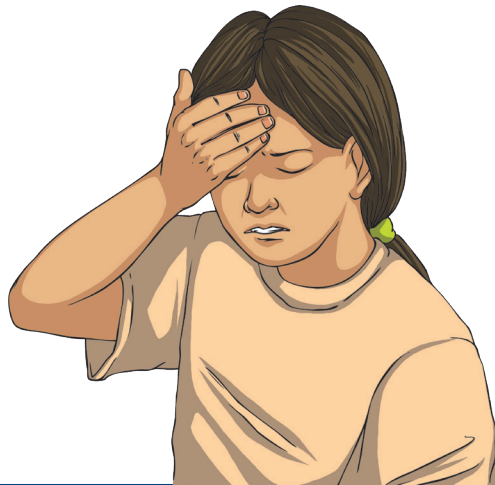
Sketch a picture of what you discover.



The Great Plague

6. Use non-fiction books and the Internet to research the symptoms of the Great Plague.

Design an information poster to show people the symptoms of the plague.

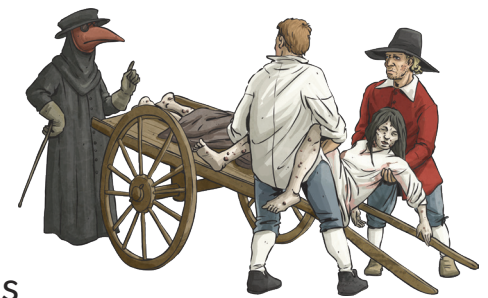


The Great Plague

7. How do you think these different people might have felt at the time of the plague?

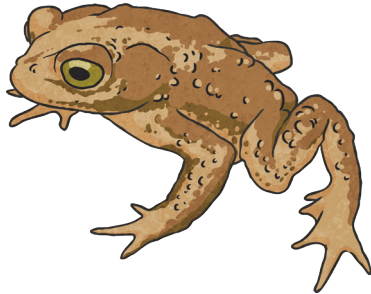
- doctors
- children
- poor families
- richer families

Describe their feelings and why they might feel that way.



8. What alternative remedies did people use to prevent the plague?

Why did they try these alternatives?



Answers

Challenge 1

Dogs and cats killed rats. As so many of them were destroyed, there were fewer predators to kill the rats, which meant that the rat population continued to grow and grow and the bacteria began to spread further.

Challenges 2-5 – research and findings.

Challenge 6

Children's own information poster about the symptoms of the plague. Symptoms should include painful swelling of the skin, blisters, headaches, fever and sickness.

Challenge 7

Answers may vary; however, children should back up their opinions with description of why they think this based on evidence, e.g. doctors – They felt frustrated as they did not know how to help people and this is the job they trained to do and want to be able to help others. They were scared because they did not want to become infected while visiting patients. We know this as they used to wear elaborate clothes, including a large beak nose and a hat and scarf and big coat.

Challenge 8 (Could include research as well)

There were many alternative remedies. People held small bunches of flowers to their noses as they thought that this would stop them from breathing in bacteria and poisonous air. Many wore lucky charms, ate toads, bathed in milk and drank fine wines. People tried these remedies as there was no cure, and at this time, lots of people used household items to treat coughs and colds. They were scared of getting the plague and would try anything to prevent it.