

The Black Death and Peasants Revolt

Key Terms:

Black Death: Disease that spread across Europe killing half of the population

1348: The year the Black Death arrived in England.

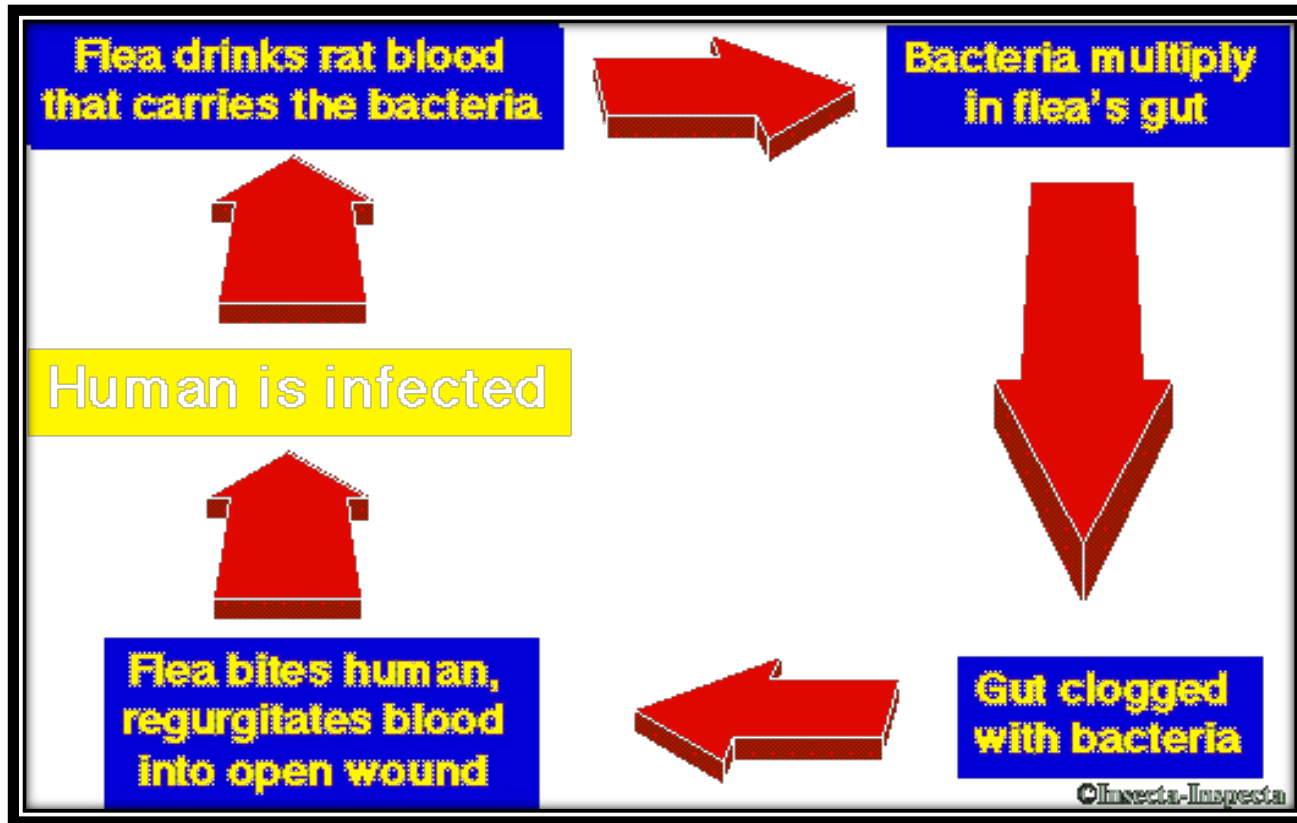
Buboes – Swelling in the groins and necks of the plague victims.

Miasma – Theory that disease was spread through bad smell and bad air.

40-50% – The amount of peasantry that were killed.

Peasants Revolt – Rebellion by peasants seeking higher wages and better working conditions.

Wat Tyler – The effective leaders of the Peasants Revolt.



The Black Death Causes the Peasants Revolt

The Plague arrived in England during the summer of 1348. It spread quickly through the south west. Churchyards were full with bodies.

The plague spread quickly during the winter of 1348-1349 to the north of England. By 1350, nearly the whole of Britain was infected with the plague.

At the end of 1350 nearly two and a half million people were dead!

This had a huge impact on the relationships between the rulers and the ruled.

Lords, freemen and peasants all began to think about how the changes in population affected their lives

Some people started to think about how they might use The Black Death to improve the pay and conditions of their work

By June 1381 the peasant numbers had reached about 60,000

Peasants are armed with axes, scythes, some even have swords and bows and arrows. They begin to march on London to demand an audience with the King

