

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**The Black Death**

Plagues of all types have haunted humans since the dawn of civilization. One of the worst plagues to strike was during the mid 1300s. This plague was so deadly it became known as the Black Death.

The Black Death began to be seen in Europe in 1347 and lasted for nearly four years. During this time in history, Europeans were doing much trade with those living in Asia. Unfortunately, trading did not just bring new goods to the Europeans; it also brought new diseases. The unsuspecting adventurers never realized they were importing rats, who came as stowaways, into

the previously uninfected areas. These rats carried with them the deadly plague, which quickly spread to the human inhabitants of the area.

Various diseases were a part of the Black Death. The bubonic plague was one type of disease that spread quickly throughout Europe during the middle 1300s. Some of the diseases could even spread through the air, and those infected would be dead in less than twenty-four hours. Literally, millions of people died as a result of the deadly sickness. No wonder history has given this plague the name the Black Death.

**Text Questions** .....

- What can you infer about the plague from the first paragraph?
  - Plagues such as this one happened often in Europe and Asia.
  - The Black Death was devastating during the mid 1300s.
  - Vaccinations for diseases were developed as a result of the Black Death.
  - People should have stopped all trade with other countries during the plague.
- What is the main idea of this text?
  - The Black Death was one of the deadliest plagues known to Europe.
  - Trading goods with people from different countries is not always a good idea.
  - Most plagues could be controlled if people were more aware of what caused various diseases.
  - People from earlier civilizations lived dangerous lives.
- Which is a synonym for the word *various* as it is used in the third paragraph?
  - some
  - different
  - remarkable
  - similar
- Which statement best explains how the plague was brought from Asia to Europe?
  - The plague was carried through the air.
  - Deadly diseases were already in Europe and did not come from trading with Asia.
  - People were infected with the plague from ingesting fish and seafood from other regions.
  - Rats, traveling with goods from Asia, brought the deadly disease with them.
- What happened to Europe's population as a result of the Black Death?
  - The population remained the same.
  - The population decreased.
  - The population slightly increased.
  - The population doubled in size.