

History knowledge organiser: Doctor! Doctor!

The Black Death 1348-1350

- The Black Death was an epidemic which killed approximately 1/3 of the British population between 1348-1350.
- It was caused by fleas on rats spreading the disease.
- It is actually two diseases, the pneumonic plague and the bubonic plague.
- The pneumonic plague causes coughing and a fever and is spread coming into contact
- with the **breath** or **blood** of someone with it.
- The bubonic plague causes swellings, called **buboes**, in the armpit and groin and is spread by fleas which carry the bacteria.



'Cures' for the Black Death didn't work! They included:

- Drinking mercury (a poison)
- Whipping themselves
- Praying
- Cutting up a pigeon and rubbing it over an infected body.
- Bathing in urine once a day!

What people thought caused it:

People thought causes included:

- The position of stars and the planets (astrology).
- God punishing people for their sins.
- Bad air (miasma)

Medieval surgery

- **Barber surgeons** were surgeons who were also barbers.
- Barber surgeons could perform **minor surgery**, such as **bloodletting**, remove small **tumours** or deal with **dislocated limbs**. **Trephination** was sometimes used as a treatment for epilepsy.
- Unsurprisingly, most ordinary people avoided surgery as much as possible!

The Great Plague 1665:

- In 1665 an epidemic of the plague hit Britain, particularly London, killing roughly 70,000 people.

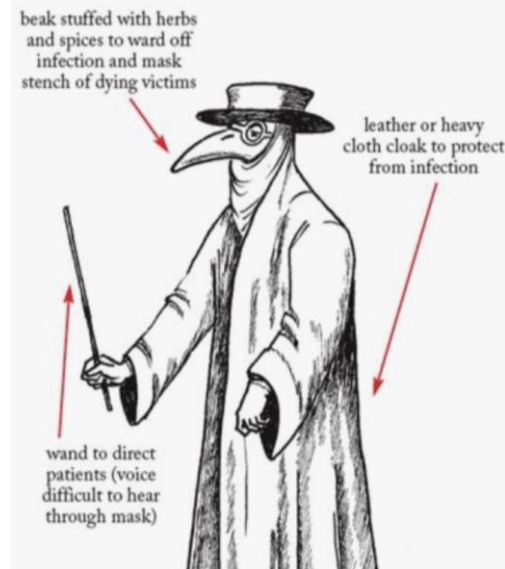
Many causes of the Great Plague were the same as the Black Death in the 14th century:

- Lots of rubbish in towns!
- Towns and ports were **crowded**, meaning the disease spread quickly.
- People escaping the disease carried fleas and the plague on their clothes.

'Cures' for the plague still didn't work!

They included:

- Bleeding with leeches
- Breathing through sponges soaked in vinegar.
- Using **pomanders** to keep away bad smells.
- Moving to the countryside (the rich and King Charles II).



Plague

Doctors

treated the victims of the plague.

Houses where someone died often had a red cross painted on them!

Key words:

Bubo: a swelling in the armpit or groin.

Epidemic: a widespread outbreak of one disease

Astrology: the study of the movement and position of the stars and planets

Miasma: the belief that bad smells cause disease.

Bloodletting: opening a vein to allow the patient to bleed

Trephination: cutting a hole in the skull

Leeches: A bloodsucking worm which was used to balance the four humours.

Pomander: A ball, sometimes worn around the neck, which contained sweet smelling herbs.

Life expectancy: How long people are expected to live for.

Cholera: A disease spread by drinking contaminated water

Shrapnel: Small pieces of metal or other material thrown out by an explosion.

Poverty: When people are forced to live in poor conditions because they do not have enough money.

Splint: Something which is used to hold a broken limb in place.

19th Century Health and Medicine (1800-1899)

- During the 19th century **public health** in towns and cities was very bad because of poor housing, overcrowding and sewage and rubbish filling the streets.
- Life expectancy** in Britain was low: in 1840 the average life expectancy in Britain was 40!

1854 Broad Street cholera outbreak

- In 1854 a major outbreak of **cholera** occurred in Broad Street in London.
- The local doctor, John Snow, investigated the cause and proved that cholera was **spread by water rather than by 'bad smells'**.
- This discovery helped to improve how clean the streets were and make sure sewage systems worked properly.

The Great Stink 1858

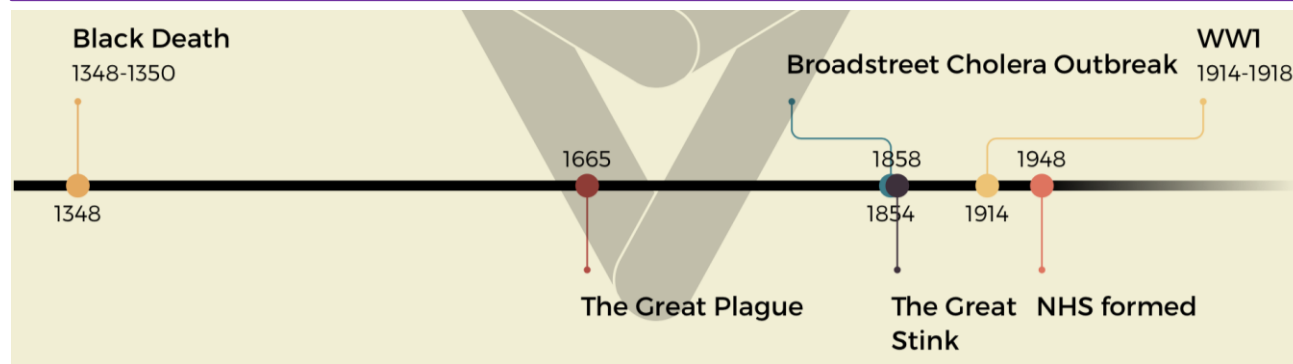
- In 1858 a **heat wave** revealed tonnes of rotting waste in the Thames. The smell was so bad that MPs in the **Houses of Parliament** tried soaking their curtains in chlorine to cover it!
- Eventually, a new sewer system was built which improved public health.

The Impact of World War One on medicine:

- Between 1914 and 1918 most of the countries in Europe were involved in **World War One**.
- Over this period new weapons, such as **mustard gas** and **grenades** were developed, causing new injuries and **conditions in the trenches** also made **infection** extremely common.
- Injured and sick soldiers needed to be treated quickly so they could go back to fighting as soon as possible.

Medical improvements:

- X-ray technology** helped surgeons to detect where a bullet had hit. Many operations were performed during the war thanks to this.
- Blood was first stored successfully during World War One. Doctors could now give **blood transfusions** to soldiers. Before, soldiers with burns and diseases would have usually died.
- The **army leg splint** was developed, which held broken bones in place while they healed.
- Harold Gillies** (an army surgeon) worked with injured soldiers to develop techniques for **plastic surgery**.



fertilisation
The male and female sex cells fuse together.

prenatal

The cells develop and grow into a foetus inside the mother's uterus. After around nine months, the baby is born.

infancy

Rapid growth and development. Children learn to walk and talk.

childhood

Children learn new skills and become more independent.

adolescence

The body starts to change over a few years. The changes occur to enable reproduction during adulthood. Much more independent.

middle adulthood

Ability to reproduce decreases. There may be hair loss or hair may turn grey.

late adulthood

Leading a healthy lifestyle can help to slow down the decline in fitness and health which occurs during this stage.

early adulthood

The human body is at its peak of fitness and strength.

Science

Different **materials** are used for particular jobs based on their properties: electrical **conductivity**, flexibility, hardness, insulators, magnetism, solubility, thermal **conductivity**, **transparency**.

What materials would be good in a hospital?