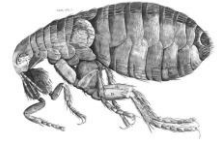




# The Black Death

1348-1350



The Black Death was one of the deadliest diseases in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. It is believed that anywhere between 25 to 200 million people were killed by the illness.

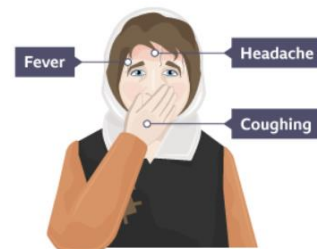
### The Bubonic Plague

The bubonic plague was initially **spread by rodents**. Fleas would drink the blood of rats that carried the plague bacteria and then bite humans. The bacteria would spread to the **lymphatic system** and cause symptoms such as **buboes**, black fingers and fever. Victims typically died within 5-days.

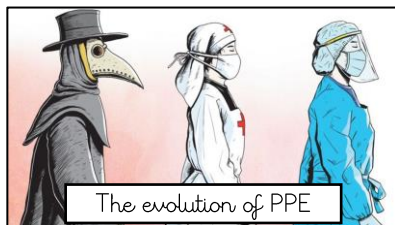


### The Pneumonic Plague

The pneumonic plague was far more deadly. Mostly **transmitted from human to human** via air droplets, the infection starts directly in the **lungs or throat**. The disease damages the respiratory system and nearly always resulted in **death** for the victim. Victims typically died within 3-days.



**Primary sources** such as diaries, engravings and paintings provide an insight into the understanding of the disease. People tried lots of different things to **cure themselves** including rubbing their buboes with onions, drinking vinegar, bloodletting, sitting in a hot smoky room and whipping themselves. A lack of understanding contributed to the **return of the disease in 1665**.



The evolution of PPE

### Personal protective equipment (PPE) and treatment

The Black Death  
The Great Plague  
Florence Nightingale  
Modern Day

No widespread preventative measures  
Plague doctors wore masks and gloves  
Masks, hand-washing, ventilation + more  
Advanced PPE + treatments available

bloodletting	bubonic	disease	hygiene	infection	measures	miasma	pandemia
plague	pneumonic	prevent	quarantine	spread	treatment	victim	virus