

1. The Bubonic Plague spreads through Europe

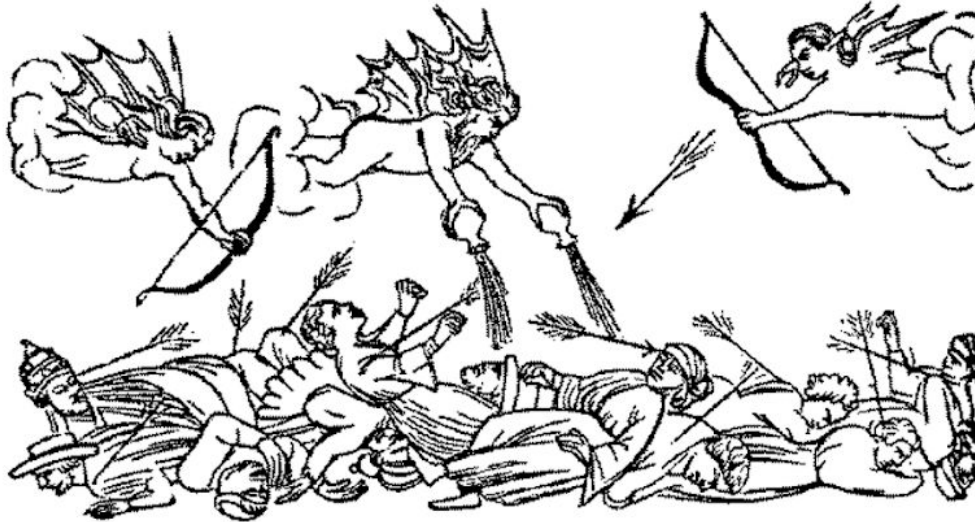


* use the color map online to answer questions 1-4

1. Where and when does the Bubonic Plague first enter Europe?
2. How long does it take before the Bubonic Plague is recorded in Messina in Sicily? In London, England?
3. What is the last region of Europe affected by the Bubonic Plague?
4. In your opinion, why did the spread of the plague follow this route?

3. An Image of Plague by Giovanni Sercambi. Source: <http://www.angelfire.com/sc/plauge/>
Giovanni Sercambi (1348-1424) was an apothecary [pharmacist] in a town about forty miles west of Florence. This image of the Black Plague was created about 1400. Arrows were a typical image for plague since they seem to bypass some and strike others. The Angel of Death represents the general miasma that seemed typical of the plague.

1. Why are arrows used as a symbol for the plague?
2. According to this picture, what is the cause of the Bubonic Plague?



5. A Nursery Rhyme

Many victims of the plague were children, who were unable to take care of themselves even if they survived infection. This common nursery rhyme describes the Bubonic Plague.

Ring a-round the rosy
Pocket full of posies
Ashes, ashes!
We all fall down!

”Ring a-round the rosy” probably refers to rosary beads which are supposed to provide God’s help. Posies are flowers that were used to stop the odor of rotting bodies. Ashes refers to cremation of bodies. “We all fall down” is the final outcome of the plague.

1. What do we learn about the plague from this nursery rhyme?
2. In your opinion, why did children sing this nursery rhyme?

6. Images of the Plague

Sources: <http://history.smsu.edu/jchuchiak/Plague%20Victim.gif>;
http://www.hhmi.org/biointeractive/museum/exhibit99/a_2.html



1. In your opinion, who are the three figures in this drawing? Explain.

Medieval physicians wore outfits made of cloth or leather to protect themselves from the plague. The bird-like beak contained spices and vinegar-soaked cloth to mask the stench of death and decay.



2. Why did doctors wear costumes such as this one?
3. In your opinion, why would the costume make them look like birds?