

Knowledge Organiser History – Year 7 HT3

Medieval Life 1066-1485

Life in Medieval towns

- Towns started to grow in the medieval period, due to increased trade and new types of jobs.
- Towns gave rise to new technology such as medicine and the spreading of ideas.
- Medieval towns were dirty places, with little was

Life in Medieval villages

- **Manor houses** would be where the **lord** lived. He rented the land to the peasants or serfs.
- Medieval villages were split up into strips of land. In return for farming the land, the peasants would work on the lords land.
- **Serfs** had no freedom and were “tied to the land”

Medieval Crime and Punishment

Medieval crimes were focused on two different things, property, behaviour and religion. Examples of crime were...

1. **Heresy**-not following the official religion
2. **Scolding**-A women who nagged her husband
3. **Horse theft**-one of the most serious crimes

Medieval Punishments were either fines or violent. There was not prison system.

1. Hanging
2. Dunking
3. Burning
4. Large fines



Medieval Jobs

Examples include:

- Ditcher – Moat Digger
- Thatcher – Roof Maker
- Cordswainer – Shoe Maker
- Cooper – Barrel Maker
- Watchman – Security guard on surrounding wall
- Yeoman – Free-man who owned a farm

Medieval beliefs of Causes of Black Death

- Miasma-Bad air which carried the disease
- Punishment from God
- Jews poisoning the wells

REAL causes of the Black Death

1. Black death was spread by the oriental rat flea. They passed the disease by biting the victim.
2. The disease spread by rats travelling on the trading ships, biting rats and then humans. It spread from China to Europe in a year.

Symptoms of Black Death

Day 1-Painful swellings developed under the arm and the groin. Could be the size of an apple.

Day 2-Vomitting and developed a fever

Day 3-Bleeding under the skin caused dark blotches all over the body

Day 4-Disease attacked the nervous system. This caused the victim to suffer spasms. Terrible pain

Day 5-Sometimes the buboes burst and a foul-smelling black liquid oozed from the open boils.

When this happened the victim usually lived. Many died though.

Impact of the Black Death

- **Population change**-The population in England dropped by up to 50%
- **Taxes**-increased after the black death, due to less people paying tax
- **Peasants Revolt**-People wanted more power after the black death, so revolted against the king
- **Population movement** -Less people meant that people could now move to get jobs.

Key dates, people and vocabulary.

Buboes	Swollen lumps in the groin, neck or armpit
Miasma	Bad air which people believed carried by bad air
Black Death	The term given to the bubonic plague, which spread from China to Europe-arrived in UK in June 1348.
Peasants Serfs	Farmers who worked for lords, in return for renting there farms. Little control over life
Manor House	Where the lords lived, villages were set up around the Manor house.
Lord	The most important person in local areas. Rented land out, made judgements and rich

