

The Black Death Tracker

Mission: In 1346, a deadly plague appeared at the Black Sea port of Caffa. Watch it travel across Europe along trade routes, test how ships and quarantines changed its spread, then visit a manor after the plague to see how it changed society.

Big question: How did the Black Death spread, and how did it change European society?

★ Warm-up: How do things spread?

Think about how things travel.

How can a rumor spread fastest? ✓ **Through the most connected people.**

Why do colds spread in school? ✓ **People are close together and share things.**

Key vocabulary

Plague	A deadly contagious disease.
Trade route	A path merchants use to carry goods.
Quarantine	Keeping people or ships apart to stop disease.
Labor shortage	Not enough workers.

1 Box 1

Watch it spread

In the simulator: Play until the plague reaches every city.

Which kind of cities were reached first?

☐ Port cities on sea trade routes ☐ Cities in the mountains ☐ Cities far from any trade

✓ **Port cities on sea trade routes**

2 Box 2

Stop the ships

In the simulator: Watch the plague reach every city with ships stopped.

What happened when ships were stopped?

☐ The plague spread more slowly over land but still spread ☐ The plague stopped completely ☐ It spread faster

✓ **The plague spread more slowly over land but still spread**

3 Box 3

Quarantine

In the simulator: Run the plague with quarantined ports.

What did you notice?

Record

Record the "Months until every city was reached" readout for each test.

Test	Months
Ships sailing	from simulator
Ships stopped	from simulator

4 Box 4

The manor after the plague

In the simulator: Set the survivors to 50 or fewer.

What happened to wages when there were fewer workers?

☐ They went up because lords competed for workers ☐ They went down ☐ They stayed the same

✓ **They went up because lords competed for workers**

5 Box 5

Cause and effect (CER)

How did the Black Death help end feudalism? Use evidence from BOTH tabs.

Claim

Look for: Connects to feudalism; at least 10 words

Evidence

Look for: Uses evidence; a number from the simulator; at least 14 words

Reasoning

Look for: Explains the change; at least 14 words

6 Box 6

Legend: then and now 🏆 Legend only

Compare how the plague spread with how diseases can spread today. What is similar and different about trade and travel?

Look for: Connects to travel today; at least 30 words

🔑 Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How did the Black Death spread, and how did it change European society?

Look for: The Black Death (1347-1351) spread fastest along sea trade routes, carried by fleas on rats and by travelers, and killed about one-third of Europe's people. With so few workers left, surviving peasants could demand higher wages or leave, which weakened feudalism.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
🗺 Explorer	MOE-E
🔍 Investigator	1EK-I

**Watch for these misconceptions**

- "The Middle Ages were a time when nothing happened." Universities, cathedrals, and legal ideas like the Magna Carta developed.
- "The Magna Carta gave rights to everyone." At first it mostly protected nobles.
- "The Renaissance happened everywhere at once." It started in Italy and spread over centuries.