

# Renaissance Context:

- Thinking back to what we've discovered about the Renaissance period so far, make a list of bullet points describing the Renaissance
- **Religion less important**
- **People challenged old ideas, more scientific**
- ...
- ...
- ...





# Great Plague 1665

Were they better prepared this time?



# Little Reminder...

- How many years have passed since the 'Black Death'?
- Make a spider diagram of everything you can remember about the Black Death including: Causes, Cures, Prevention, How it spread, Deaths, & anything else you can remember.

**Now, make 3 predictions of what you think the people of the Renaissance will think caused the Great Plague and their ideas on treatments / prevention...**



HORRIBLE HISTORIES™



What can we learn from HH about the Great Plague?

# CONTINUITY

# CHANGE

People still believed that there were many factors that could prevent disease, including superstitions and prayer...

...but people also started to believe that other things could help avoid disease, such as practising moderation and your condition at birth.

Cleanliness was still very important...

...but bathing had become a lot less fashionable in England since the arrival of syphilis. People now kept clean by changing their clothes more often.

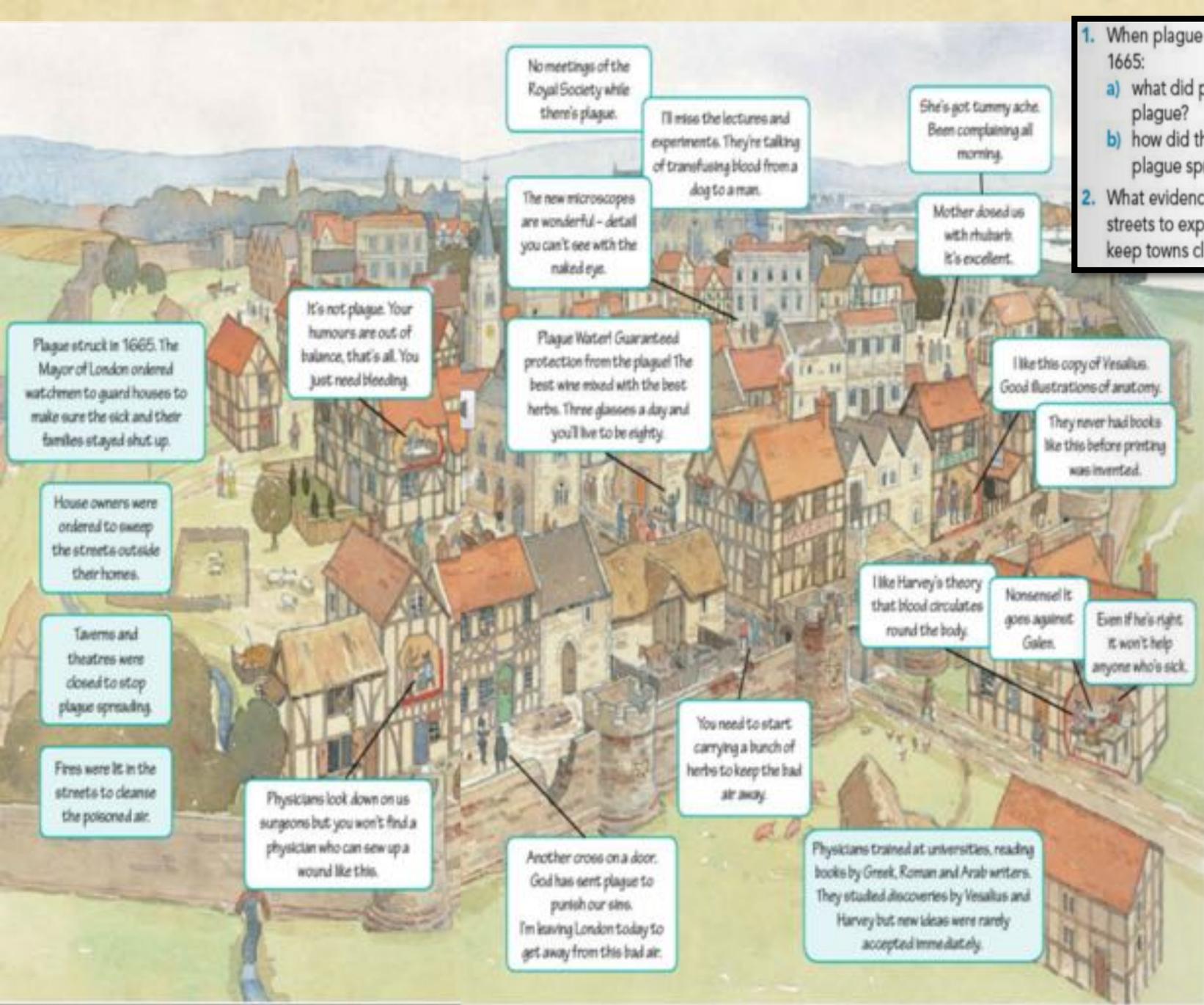
People continued to practise regimen sanitatis...

...but, by the end of the 17th century, people also began to think that disease was also related to other factors (for example, the weather).

Miasma was still believed in...

...but more steps were now taken to remove miasma from the air (for example, removing sewage and picking up rubbish from the streets).

Draw a table about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a page with the headings above.



1. When plague was raging in London in 1665:
  - a) what did people think was causing plague?
  - b) how did they try to treat or prevent plague spreading?
2. What evidence can you see in the streets to explain why it was still hard to keep towns clean?

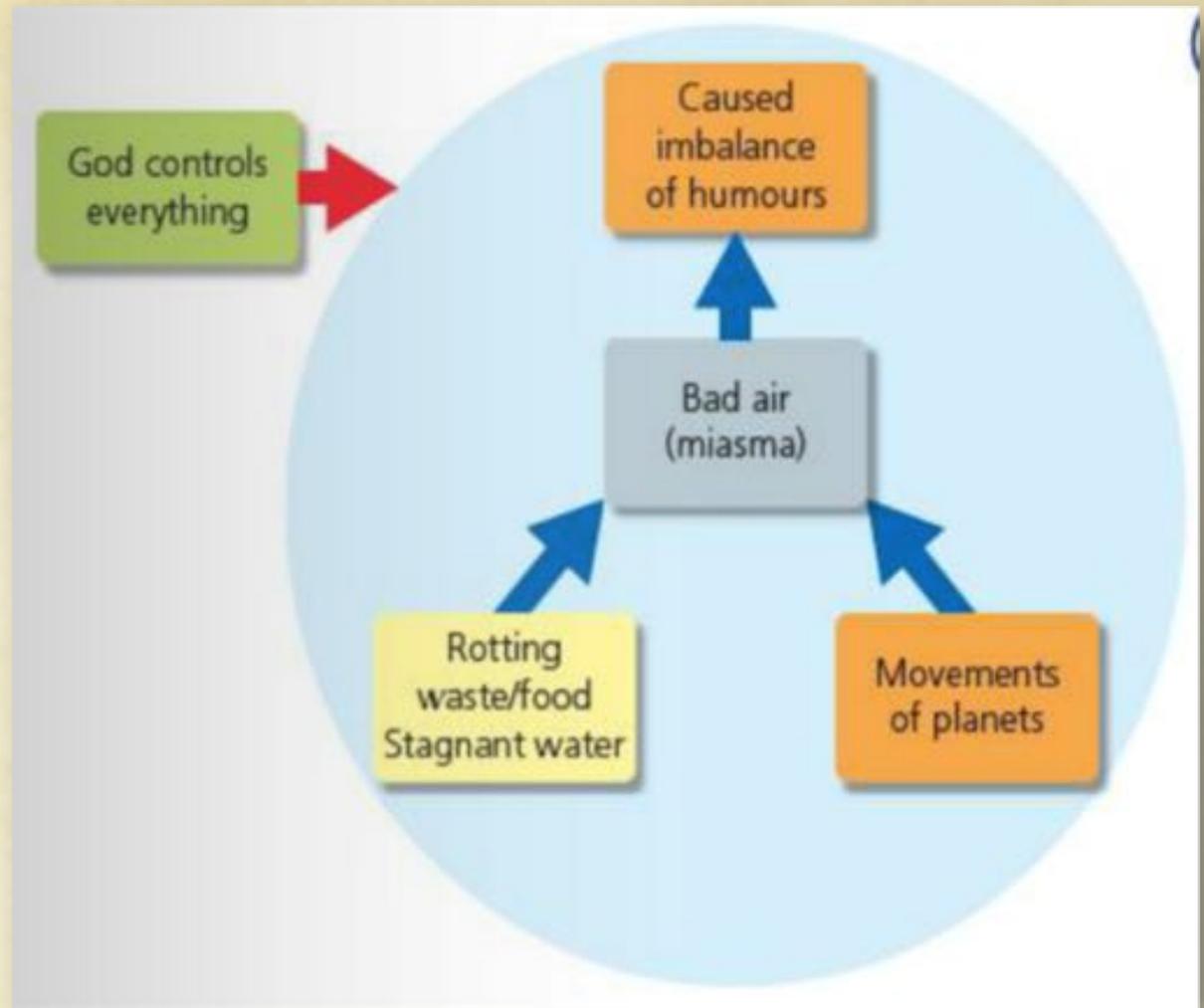
On your revision notes, divide this info into Change or Continuity from the Middle Ages.

# So... have conditions improved?

- London in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century was a very unhealthy place to live. The buildings were made of wood and plaster and were very tightly packed in. The city was a chaotic maze of streets and buildings.
- Most houses were squalid and cramped.
- There was no sewage system within the city so people emptied their chamber pots into the streets.
- Water came from the rivers and the streams.
- It was little wonder disease spread easily. In 1665 there was another outbreak of the dreaded Bubonic Plague.

**Add this information to your table from earlier...**

# Causes:



Explanations for the plague hadn't changed much since the Black Death Of 1348. As you can see above, they still felt God was important, mixed with rational explanations, given people's beliefs and understandings.

## The Diseases and Casualties this Week

Abrasive	6	Kingevil	10
Aged	54	Lethargy	1
Apoplexie	1	Murdered at Stepney	1
Bedridden	1	Palie	2
Cancer	3	Plague	3836
Childbed	23	Pluritic	1
Cholerae	15	Quintic	6
Collick	1	Ricken	23
Consumption	174	Rising of the Lights	19
Convulsion	88	Rupture	1
Dropic	40	Sciatica	1
Drowned 2, one at St. Kath- Tower, and one at Lambeth	2	Scouring	13
Feaver	353	Scirvy	1
Fistula	1	Sore leggs	1
Floz and Small-pox	10	Spotted Feaver and Purples	190
Flux	2	Starved at Nurfc	1
Found dead in the Street at St. Bartholome & the Leif	1	Stillborn	8
Frighted	2	Stone	2
Gangrene	1	Stopping of the Stomach	16
Gout	1	Strangury	1
Grief	1	Suddenly	1
Griping in the Guts	74	Surfeit	27
Jandriles	3	Teeth	113
Inaposthume	18	Thrush	3
Infans	11	Tiffick	6
Kid by a fall down; stairs at St. Thomas Apostle	1	Ulcer	2
		Vomiting	7
		Winde	8
		Wormes	18

Christned	Males	83	Buried	Males	2656	Plague	3880
	Females	83		Females	2653		
	In all	166		In all	5319		

Increased in the Burial: this Week 1289

Parishes clear of the Plague 34 Parishes Infected 96

*The Office of Bread set forth by Order of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen*

A penny Wheaten Loaf to contain Nine Ounces and a half, and three  
half-penny White Loaves the like weight.

▲ A mortality bill for 1665. These bills listed the numbers of dead in each parish and the causes of death. These bills show that the highest numbers of plague deaths were in the poorest, dirtiest, most overcrowded parishes and so provided evidence that plague was linked to dirt and bad air.



1665 Plague video:

In 1665, a serious outbreak of the plague swept across the whole of London. It peaked in September at 7000 deaths in one week! In total 100,000 (1/5) Londoners died. The Great Plague was still spread by fleas, but they still didn't know what caused it!

### Ideas of causes:

- Fewer people believed in the Theory of the 4 humours, it had not been replaced, so nobody knew for certain what caused it
- Most people blamed the same things as the Black Death in 1348

### Astrology:

There had been an unusual alignment between Saturn & Jupiter in October 1664, and between Mars & Saturn on 12 November. This was seen as unlucky and suggested there would be trouble ahead!

### God:

Many people still believed the Great Plague was a result of mankind's wickedness and God sent it to clean up his kingdom



## Other people:

Many people believed that disease could be spread from person to person. Plague victims were still quarantined. Even Miasma believers felt that once caught, it could be spread by each other

## Miasma:

By far the most popular theory about the spread was Miasma. Many people believed it was created by the stinking rubbish and dunghills in the streets. The vapour was in the soil and would pour out when the weather got warmer. This made sense as plague outbreaks generally appeared in warmer weather

# Cures & Treatments:

What reason might there be for not knowing a lot about treatments of the Great Plague?

Most of the victims were shut up with family members in quarantine.

## Transference

- Strapping a live chicken to a bubo, or lancing it with a feather plucked from a live chicken. Dr George Thomson stayed and carried out an autopsy on a victim to learn more, he got the Plague! He did survive though after putting a dried toad on his chest!

## Quack Doctors

- Someone with no medical qualifications but sold their services as a doctor or apothecary. These quacks took advantage of the general panic, mixing remedies and advertising them as miraculous cures, hoping to make easy money! **London Treacle (Plague Water) – contained wine, herbs, spices, honey and opium.**

## Traditional treatments

- People prayed for the sick
- Gave them magical or religious charms to wear
- Cut open the buboes to let the pus out
- Bleeding
- Purging
- Running away! – (to the countryside)

Wrap in woollen clothes, make the sick person sweat, which if he do, keep warm until the sores begin to rise. Then apply to the sores live pigeons cut in half or else a plaster made of yolk of an egg, honey, herb of grace and wheat flour.



Draw a small plague doctor in the middle of your page and write around it as much as you can from this clip [Plague Doctor / Apothecary video](#)

**Add the following to your diagram if you missed it.**

- Plague doctors wore special costumes to avoid catching the plague
- Hooked, birdlike masks, with sweet smelling herbs to ward off the miasma
- Birds were meant to attract disease, so it was thought that the disease might be attracted to the bird shape and leave the patient
- The physicians coat would be treated with wax to make sure no pus or blood soaked into it



APOTHECARY

Apothecary

Plague doctor

Quarantine

Pomander

Clean street

Fire to drive away miasma

Kill stray or ill animals

# Prevention: Best advice – Don't catch it!



**How are they solving 'The Great Plague' – is it like 1348?**

Make a list of ideas from this clip

## **Advice from Physicians**

*The College of Physicians recommended a variety of preventative measures:*

- Prayer & Repentance
- Quarantine anybody who had the plague
- Carrying a pomander to drive away Miasma
- Diet – ranging from fasting to garlic and sage fried in butter

# Prevention: Best advice – Don't catch it!



How are they solving 'The Great Plague' – is it like 1348?

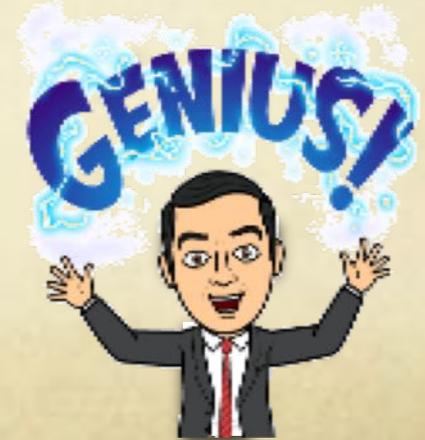
## Advice from other healers

- Most people turned to local healers for help in warding off the plague
- Plague Water was popular among apothecaries. Some relied on native herbs such as mint & rosemary, others contained new exotic ingredients from the new world such as nutmeg and sugar.
- Purposefully catch syphilis!!!! (Might have been fun trying, but not in the getting of it)

# What else did they do?...

They linked their prevention to their ideas of its causes – IMPORTANT

- Keep the air sweet to ward off the bad air
- Bunches of strong-smelling herbs (such as lavender or sage) were hung in doorways and windows to stop the MIASMA
- Walk around holding bundles of herbs under their noses
- Drink 'Plague Water' made from herbs mixed with wine
- Simply stay at home to avoid contact with others
- When buying food, soak coins in vinegar
- Chew tobacco, the smell will shield Miasma
- A school boy at Eton said he was flogged in 1665 for not smoking enough!
- Keep some dried manure from someone who had died of plague



Make sure you know these examples

# Government action:



*I am the Lord Mayor and I am very concerned about this Plague thingy! Being a forward thinking Mayor, I am going to introduce some orders to fix our problems! Fear not, I shall not be sitting in sewers or messing with chicken bottoms!*

- Any house containing a Plague sufferer has to be sealed up for 40 days until the person is dead or better.
- The door of the house has to be marked with a red cross and the words, 'Lord, have mercy upon us'.
- 'Searchers' are to be appointed to examine each corpse for 1p per body to find out the cause of death.
- Public entertainments are to be stopped.
- All dogs and cats are to be caught and killed; the dog catcher is to be paid about 1p for each animal.
- Fires are to be lit in the streets.
- Bodies are to be buried after dark.

## Why were the orders hard to enforce?

1. Parliament refused to turn the orders into laws because members of the House of Lords refused to be shut in their houses.
2. People ignored the rules. Plague symptoms were not reported. Over 20 watchmen were murdered by people escaping from houses that had been shut up.
3. The King and his council left London. They discussed what to do about plague three times in seven months and two of those discussions were about the King's safety.
4. Nine men were put in charge of dealing with plague in London. Six of them left London as soon as they could.
5. Not enough men could be found to work as watchmen. Some watchmen and women searchers took the chance to steal from the sick.
6. Beggars and other homeless people caught plague but still stayed in the streets, begging for help.

## The Great Plague (1 hour)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPe6BgzHWY0&t=1145s>

## THE END OF PLAGUE : 1666

It took a combination of cold weather, the disease reaching the end of its natural course and the Great Fire of London to put an end to the Great Plague. In 1666 London was destroyed by fire and was completely rebuilt. Narrow streets and wooden buildings were replaced by stone and brick buildings, and wider, better-paved streets. For a time London was healthier, but as the city became more and more crowded again, the benefits of the rebuilding disappeared.



**Task:** Using your notes on the Great Plague, which should have been organised into Causes, Treatments and Preventions already, complete your knowledge summary sheet like you did for the Black Death.

*Great Plague Knowledge Organisation sheet*

*Causes:*



*Treatments:*

*Preventions:*



## Black Death Vs. Great Plague

Look back through your notes, summary sheets and the text book, summarise the two plagues, you can use the example layout below to help or your own presentation.

<b>Causes</b>	<b>Black Death</b>	<b>Great Plague</b>
Similarities		
Differences		

<b>Treatments</b>	<b>Black Death</b>	<b>Great Plague</b>
Similarities		
Differences		

<b>Preventions</b>	<b>Black Death</b>	<b>Great Plague</b>
Similarities		
Differences		<b>Plague Doctor</b>

## Exam-style question, Section B

Explain **one** way in which ideas about preventing the plague were different in the 14th and 17th centuries.

4 marks

### Exam tip

The Black Death of 1348 and the Great Plague of 1665 are both case studies for this unit. That means that the examiner will want to see that you recognise the similarities and differences between these two specific outbreaks.

Do it first for  
**PREVENTION**

5 mins

Then another one  
for **CAUSES**

5mins

Then another one  
for **TREATMENTS**

5mins

Use your structure strips to help

# The Great Plague (1 hour)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPe6BgzHWY0&t=1145s>

## Summary

- Causes of the Great Plague were thought to be supernatural – either to do with the planets or as a punishment from God – or caused by a miasma.
- Most people now recognised that the plague was spread from person to person.
- Prevention methods often involved creating a strong smell to ward off the miasma.
- The local government in London took a lot more action than in previous outbreaks.

## Checkpoint

### Strengthen

- S1** Create a mnemonic to help you remember what people thought caused the Great Plague – Astrology, God, Miasma and Other People.
- S2** What did quack doctors do during the Great Plague?

### Challenge

- C1** How did a change in attitudes in society and the role of the Church lead to changes in the way the plague was tackled between 1348 and 1665? Hint: in 1665 there was more focus on prevention than there had been before.
- C2** Can you identify three changes and three continuities between the case studies of the Black Death and the Great Plague?

If you are not sure, go back to the text in this section to find the details you need.