



A Podcast on the Black Death

You are going to create a 1 minute podcast about the Black Death that will be saved in an MP3 format and can be really helpful for revision purposes.

You have to broadcast about the following two areas:

- 1) The suggested causes of the plague during the Middle Ages (20 seconds)
- 2) The cures that were used during the Middle Ages (40 seconds)

You should use the Medicine through Time textbooks and the handouts to help you

The best podcast will go onto the internet via
comptonhistory.com
<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

Causes of the plague

During the 14th century, people thought the plague might be caused by:

- * Harmful fumes and vapours emitted during earthquakes or volcanic eruptions
- * Supernatural influences, such as God's anger at people's sins
- * Astrology such as unlucky planet alignments or a comet
- * Contagion: the passing of disease by touching the body, clothing or goods belonging to the victim

There were people in the time of the plague (the Black Death) who believed that they had sinned. They believed that the only way to show their true repentance was to inflict pain on themselves. These were the so-called flagellants who whipped themselves to show their love of God and their true sorry at being a sinner. Clearly, this was no cure for the plague. (http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/MOLsite/learning/features_facts/viking_2.html)

Cures for the plague

Vinegar and water treatment

If a person gets the disease, they must be put to bed. They should be washed with vinegar and rose water

Lancing the buboes

The swellings associated with the Black Death should be cut open to allow the disease to leave the body. A mixture of tree resin, roots of white lilies and dried human excrement should be applied to the places where the body has been cut open.

Bleeding

The disease must be in the blood. The veins leading to the heart should be cut open. This will allow the disease to leave the body. An ointment made of clay and violets should be applied to the place where the cuts have been made.

Diet

We should not eat food that goes off easily and smells badly such as meat, cheese and fish. Instead we should eat bread, fruit and vegetables

Sanitation

The streets should be cleaned of all human and animal waste. It should be taken by a cart to a field outside of the village and burnt. All bodies should be buried in deep pits outside of the village and their clothes should also be burnt.

Pestilence medicine

Roast the shells of newly laid eggs. Ground the roasted shells into a powder. Chop up the leaves and petals of marigold flowers. Put the egg shells and marigolds into a pot of good ale. Add treacle and warm over a fire. The patient should drink this mixture every morning and night.

Witchcraft

Place a live hen next to the swelling to draw out the pestilence from the body. To aid recovery you should drink a glass of your own urine twice a day.

(www.historylearningsite.co.uk)