



THE GREAT PLAGUE

YEAR 4

1603 - Bill of Mortality continuously used in London.

November 1605 - The Gunpowder Plot.

LINKS IN THE CURRICULUM:

Year 1 - Great Fire of London
Whole School - Shakespeare

February 1665 - The outbreak of the plague began in London.

June 1665 - Plague spreads to the village of Eyam.

November 1665 - No more plague in Eyam.

December 1665 - Recorded death rate of Plague for year is 68,596. More have expected to die than this.

May 1665 - 43 people die of the plague.

July 1665 - 17,036 people have died from Plague in July.

December 1665 - People who fled London begin to return.

September 1666 - The Great Fire of London

KEY VOCABULARY

Buboes	Swelling on the neck, armpit or groin.
Disease	An illness
Contagious	Passed from one person to another by contact
Epidemic	A disease that spreads more quickly and more extensively.
Mortality	Death on a large scale
Monarch	A ruler - King or Queen
Peasant	A poor person who lives in the country.
Quarantine	Isolation (being alone) because of a disease
Urban	The city
Rural	The countryside
Population	All of the people who live in an area.
Port	A place where ships and boats can dock, load and unload.

Key Facts:

- The gunpowder plot was a failed attempt to blow up the houses of parliament while King James 1 was inside. Guy Fawkes was caught with the barrels of gunpowder in the cellar and was executed.
- Before 1666, London was filled with cramped alleyways, wooden houses and infested with rats. People were always on the streets trading, fetching water or using the toilets.
- The Great Plague was spread by fleas that travelled on rats. They infected humans and humans infected each other.
- Symptoms of the Great Plague were: coughing, fever, headache, buboes, chills, vomiting and skin turning black.
- Ring-a-ring-a-rosy is a popular nursery rhyme that has many links to the Great Plague.
- The London Mortality Bill was used to monitor the deaths in London continuously from 1603.
- Eyam, a village in the Peak District, became infected with the Great Plague after a delivery of cotton and cloths. As the infection spread, William Mompesson decided that the village would need to quarantine to stop the spread of the disease. It took 4 months for the spread to stop.

A mask in the shape of a beak
The beak of the mask was often filled with herbs and spices to overpower the 'bad air' which was thought to carry the plague. The mask also included red glass eyepieces, which were thought to keep the wearer safe from evil.

A wooden cane
The cane was used to push away people who came too close.

Leather trousers and long boots
These were worn beneath the coat to protect the lower half of the body from infection.



A wide-brimmed black hat
This would have identified the person as someone who treated plague victims.

A long, black overcoat
The coat was tucked in behind the beak mask at the neck to reduce skin exposure. It completely covered the body and was often coated all over in wax. It was thought that the wax would draw out the plague from the infected victim and either trap it or repel it. We now know that the heavy coat would have helped to stop the real cause, flea bites.