Plague is a disease that quickly spreads. It has existed for thousands of years.

It is spread by fleas that live on rats. One bite from a flea could infect you with the plague and you would die a horrible death.

**Plague outbreaks**

- **1348**
  - The plague of 1348 starts in Asia and spreads across the world.

- **1348-1350**
  - Terrible outbreaks of plague in England. Thousands of men, women and children die. It dies down in the winter as fleas are dormant.

- **1361-1364**
  - The plague returns, mainly killing children.

- **1364-1405**
  - Bubonic plague sweeps across England killing 100,000 people just in London. Named ‘The Great Plague of London’ this was the last serious outbreak in England.

- **1665-1666**
  - The plague returns five more times before 1405.

**WOW! Fact**

The plague became known as ‘The Black Death’ because of the black blotches it caused on the skin and its deadly effect on society.