

Life for ordinary people was tough in the Middle Ages. A majority of people lived in the countryside and were peasants. (Either villeins or freemen) Their life was basically controlled by the Lord of the Manor

London was the biggest city in England – but there were only a handful of towns with a population more than 1,000. However these were slowly growing in importance

Religion was fundamental to everyday life. All peasants were devout Christians and the church was the centre of every village.

### The Black Death

**The Bubonic Plague arrived in England in 1348. Within a few years between a third and a half of the country were dead. Villages were deserted and many people started to question the old ways**

**Medicine was very basic and people had no idea of the causes of the disease. Some tried prayer and flagellation while others tried bizarre preventions involving chickens and toads**

**We now know that the disease was spread by rats and their infected fleas. Bubonic plague was spread by flea bites but the more deadly pneumonic plague was spread through coughs and infected air**

**It is estimated that the Black Death killed around 60% of Europe's people and it took nearly 200 years for the**

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### MEDIEVAL LIFE



### Key terms

Catholic	The only type of Christian in Western Europe
Pope	The leader of the Catholic Church – lives in Rome
priests	Ran churches in different villages and towns
tithe	To help pay for the church – people paid 10% of their income
Monastery	Were monks lived in thoughtful prayer – they also looked after the sick
Pilgrimage	A visit to a holy place – God would then forgive their sins and perhaps cure any illness or disease
Relics	A religious object – maybe a saint's bone or a piece of the true cross – could cure disease or allow entry into heaven
Anti semitism	Hatred of the Jewish people
Money lending	One of the few jobs Jews could do – Christians were not allowed to lend money for interest
Villein	Peasants who were under control of the Lord of the Manor
freeman	Peasants who have more freedom – but still have to work for the Lord
Charter	Document that established a new town
Guilds	Organisations that covered different crafts
Black Death	Name given to the Bubonic Plague that arrived in England
Blood letting	Deliberately cutting some one to take blood out of their system
Barber surgeons	People who cut hair for a living – but earned extra money by performing minor surgery