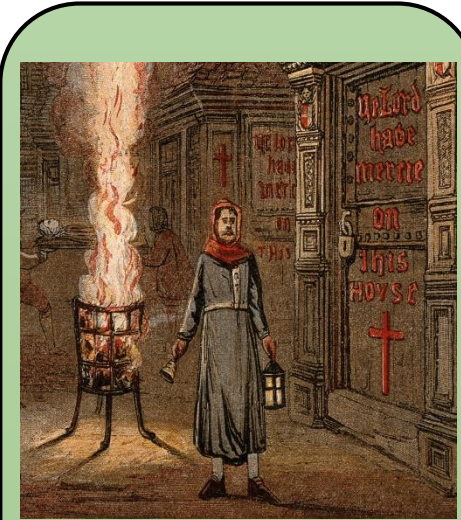
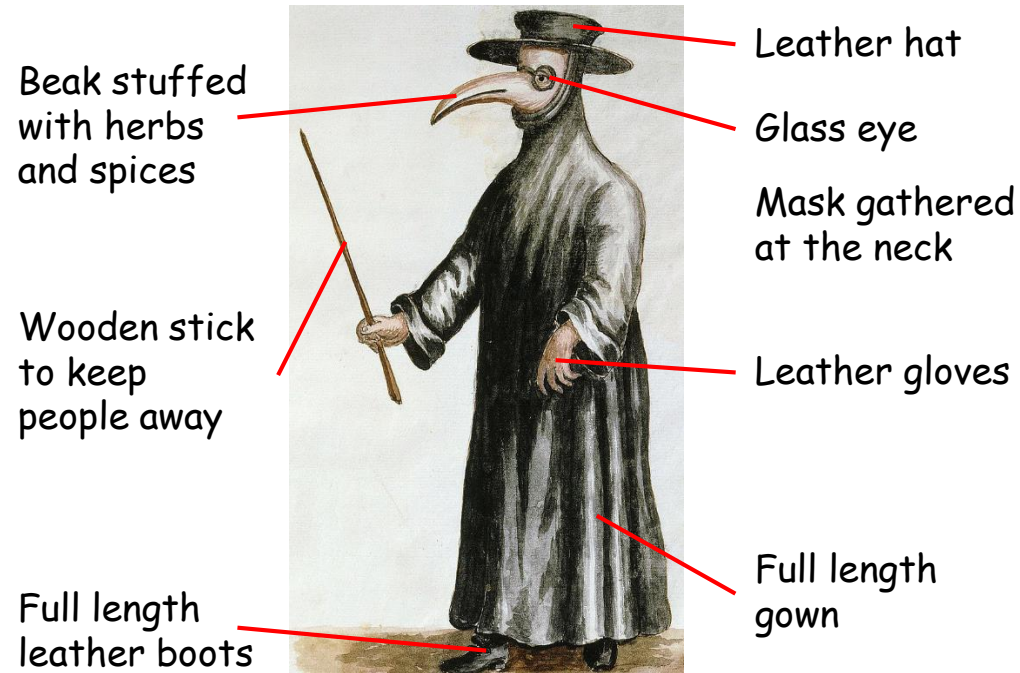


Topic Fact Sheet - Plague, Pox and Antibiotics

Key Terms

Antibiotics	Medicines produced from microorganisms (like fungi) that are used to kill harmful bacteria.
Apothecary	A person who, in the past, made and sold medicines.
Bubonic Plague	A dangerous disease, caused by bacteria and spread by rats. Symptoms included fever, weakness and swellings on the neck, armpit and groin.
Herbwife	A woman who sells herbs.
Immunisation	The process that the body goes through to become immune to a certain bacteria
Inoculation	A method of giving a vaccine, by being absorbed through an opening in the skin rather than by injection.
Physician	A specialist in healing human diseases - a doctor of medicine.
Plague doctor	A physician who treated victims of the bubonic plague.
Smallpox	A sometimes deadly infectious disease, caused by a virus. Symptoms included fever and skin rash.
Vaccine	From the Latin word 'vacca' meaning cow. An injection given to help the body defend itself against a harmful bacteria.

Plague Doctor



People with symptoms of the plague were left in their homes and a red cross was painted on their door to warn others that those inside were infected.

Black rats carried the bacteria that caused the plague. When the rats were bitten by fleas, the fleas then became infected.

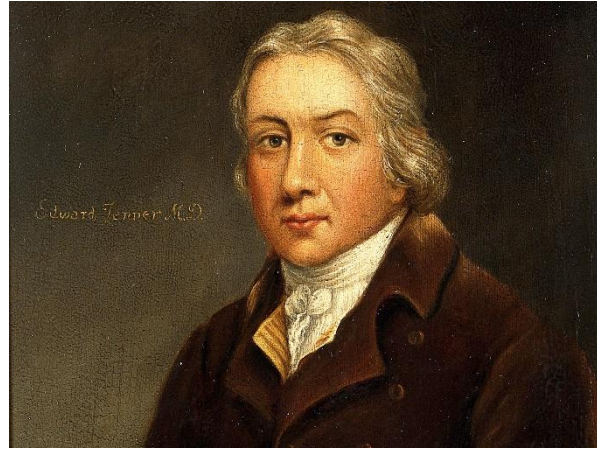


The disease was spread through infected fleas biting humans.

Topic Fact Sheet - Plague, Pox and Antibiotics

Key Dates

1348	The Plague first strikes London
1518	The first plague regulations are introduced in London
1562	Queen Elizabeth I is struck down with Smallpox
1664	The Plague returns to London
1665	February - major Plague outbreak in London
1665	December - People who fled London are now returning
1666	Great Fire of London wipes out most of the disease carrying rats
1796	Edward Jenner discovers a Smallpox vaccine
1853	Smallpox vaccine is made compulsory in the British Isles
1928	Penicillin is discovered by Alexander Fleming
1980	The WHO (World Health Organisation) declare Smallpox eradicated



Edward Jenner discovered a way to immunise people against smallpox.

He inoculated James Phipps, an 8 year old boy, with cowpox (a virus similar to smallpox) to create an immunity to smallpox.



Alexander Fleming was a microbiologist who discovered penicillin.

Alexander Fleming noticed that around a blob of mould, which had grown in a dirty petri dish, no bacteria was growing.

