

Name _____

The Black Death: Europe's Darkest Hour

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The Black Death is believed to have originated in Asia and reached Europe through trade routes, primarily via rats infested with fleas carrying the *Yersinia pestis* bacteria. Its impact on the population was devastating, with an estimated one-third of Europe's inhabitants succumbing to the disease.
2. The Black Death had long-term consequences on European society, leading to economic changes such as higher wages for laborers and social unrest as landowners resisted these changes. It also influenced the development of art and culture, with themes of mortality and a resurgence of religious faith.
3. Religion played a significant role during the Black Death, as people turned to faith for solace and protection. This resurgence of faith led to the construction of religious buildings and influenced cultural expressions like art and literature, often depicting themes of mortality and the fragility of life.
4. If I were a resident of a European city during the Black Death, I would likely be filled with fear and uncertainty. I would witness the rapid spread of the disease, the death of friends and family, and the societal upheaval that followed. Seeking solace, I would turn to religion and hope for deliverance from the deadly pandemic.

