

Name _____

The Joyful Mystery: The Dancing Plague of 1518

Short Answer Key

1. Frau Troffea was a woman who began dancing uncontrollably in the streets of Strasbourg, starting the dancing plague.
2. Doctors and authorities were initially unable to find a physical cause for the dancing because there was no apparent source of music or celebration, and the phenomenon seemed to have no physical explanation.
3. The town council in Strasbourg attempted to help the dancers by arranging a stage and musicians, thinking that the dancers needed to dance it out of their system. This effort succeeded in ending the dancing.
4. One theory or explanation for the cause of the Dancing Plague of 1518 mentioned in the passage is that it might be caused by "hot blood" or a psychological condition.
5. The Dancing Plague of 1518 is considered a historical mystery because the exact cause of the phenomenon remains unknown, and it represents a puzzling and inexplicable episode in history.

