

Name _____

The Joyful Mystery: The Dancing Plague of 1518

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The town council's decision to arrange a stage and musicians for the dancers can be seen as a creative and compassionate approach to the situation. It aimed to address the dancers' needs for an outlet while also providing a form of entertainment. Ultimately, it succeeded in ending the dancing, which suggests that it was a suitable solution.
2. Living in Strasbourg during the Dancing Plague of 1518 would likely have been a surreal experience. One might have felt a mix of fascination, curiosity, and concern for the dancers. It would have been challenging to understand the mysterious nature of the phenomenon.
3. The legacy of the Dancing Plague of 1518 includes its continued fascination for historians, scientists, and artists. It has inspired books, plays, and songs, and it serves as a reminder of the curious and unpredictable ways in which human behavior can manifest.
4. The Dancing Plague of 1518 highlights the intriguing fact that sometimes the human mind and body can react in unexpected and unexplained ways to various stimuli or conditions. It underscores the complexity of human behavior and the mysteries that continue to exist within the realm of science and psychology.

