

Knowledge organiser
The Great Plague of 1665

Key Knowledge

King Charles II was the Monarch of England during the Great Plague

The Great Plague occurred between 1665 and 1666.

The Black Death - a break out of the plague across Europe 300 years earlier.

The plague killed people at an incredible rate and victims died within days of catching the illness.

Symptoms included headaches, fever, vomiting, painful swellings on the neck, armpits and groin (known as buboes), blisters and bruises and coughing up blood.

There was no cure for the plague. People symptoms of the plague were left in their homes and a large red cross was nailed to the door to warn others that those inside were infected. 'God have mercy upon us' was written on the door.

Some doctors believed that bad poisonous air was the cause of the plague, infecting anyone who breathed it.

People did not understand that the plague was a disease found in black rats.

The disease was spread by fleas. They would bite the rats and become infected and the infected fleas would then spread the disease to humans.

Rats thrived in towns and cities, especially London, due to the poor living conditions.

The Plague Doctor



Vocabulary	Definition
Buboes	Swelling on the neck, armpit or groin
Disease	An illness
Contagious	Passed from one person to another by contact
Epidemic	A disease that spreads more quickly and more extensively
Middle Ages	A period of European history from c. 1000 AD to 1453 AD.
Monarch	A ruler e.g. A King or Queen
Peasant	An, often poor, person who lives in the country
Quarantine	Isolation (being alone) because of disease
Urban	The city
Rural	The countryside
Population	all of the people who live in an area
Port	A place where ships and boats can dock, load, and unload

