

BLACK DEATH NEWS ARTICLE

TOTAL POINTS: 20 (mastery) DUE DATE: _____

The Black Death ravaged Europe during the late Middle Ages and killed millions of people. This had a dramatic effect on the population – everything from their social lives and personal religious beliefs, to the economy and government. Your job is to take the role of a reporter from that time and uncover the facts about the plague and interview people affected by it. Choose one of the social studies themes to focus on and cover in your article:

- POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL
- Find out the WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, and HOW.

Remember, this is a news article, NOT a research paper. Look back at some of the recent news articles we have read to remind you of how they are written, the tone they take, etc. To receive full points, you must be able to check off the following criteria:

- Article must have a catchy title/headline.
- Written in the tone of a news story (pretend you are there, reporting on things happening).
- Article must contain historically accurate information.
- Article must have quotes from at least one “witness.”
- Article must have at least one graphic of some sort (picture, map, chart, etc.).
- Article must be between 300 and 500 words in length.
- Research guide/source page
- Article must be well written, with minimal spelling/grammatical errors. (I prefer it to be typed, but I will accept blue/black ink – no pencil)

ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT: Don't want to write an article? You and a partner may create and record a 5 minute report. It can be either a visual (using a video camera) or an audio (sound recording) report. All of the article criteria (except length and graphic requirements) apply.

