



## 3.1: Life in a Town

- The life of a Medieval Peasant was not a good life. They were **tied to their lord** and had to work for him on his land for **free, three times a week**.
- If a peasant was able to escape and hide in a town for **a year and a day**, without getting caught we was declared a free man.
- The Medieval town was not like the towns and the cities today they usually had a **wall** around the town to try and protect them in case of an attack. They also sometimes had been built around a **church and a castle**.
- Here people came to sell their goods and **markets** soon sprang up. In order to sell good the people had to be part of a **guild** which was a group that looked after the price of goods and ensured everyone working to the same quality.

### Conditions of the Town

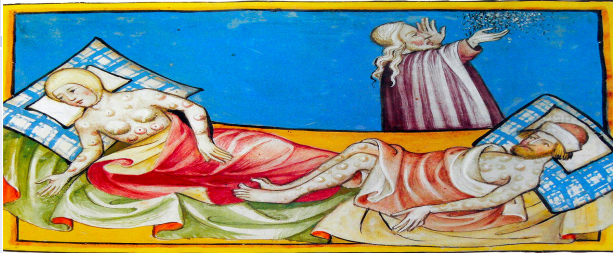
- The conditions in the town were not clean. Running down the centre of the towns were roads filled with **waste**.
- People would throw **excrement** and old food onto the road. Butchers would throw out rotting meat which lead to **disease** being able to spread easily. In 1348, this led to the most deadly disease in England being about the spread easily: **The Black Death**.



## 3.2: The Black Death

**The Black Death was the most deadly disease had ever seen it struck England first in 1348.**

- The Black Death was spread through trade routes as fleas on rats were able to stow away on ships. It is believed that the Black Death originated in Mongolia in modern day China.
- It killed 1/3 of the population of Europe as people at the time did not know what was causing this disease. Some believed it was God, others Miasma ( or bad air.)
- They would pray, whip themselves and go on pilgrimages to ask God to spare them or throw sweet smelling herbs into the air to get rid of Miasma.



## 3.3: The different types of Plague

- There were three different types of Black Death
- Bubonic** – symptoms included Bubo, fever, fits and a red shaped rash on the body. The skin would go blue/black. 50% death rate.
- Pneumonic** – The black Death would affect the Blood 80% death rate.
- Septicemic** – The Black Death would affect the Blood. 100% death rate.



## 3.4: The Peasants' Revolt

**Here is the basic story of the Peasants' Revolt – you may want to revise more on this story.**

- The revolt started on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1381, one of the causes was a tax that was in order to pay for the king's war against France.
- Peasants demanded that all men should be free and equal and demanded higher wages.
- The peasants led by Wat Tyler marched on London and sent him a list of demands. They even killed government ministers.
- 14 year of King Richard II met the rebels, during this meeting Tyler was killed but before the rebels could do anything the King promised to make all peasants free.
- The peasants were happy but the king did not follow his promise and later hanged men who had been part of the revolt.

