



Knowledge Organiser - The Great Plague - Class 3



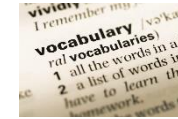
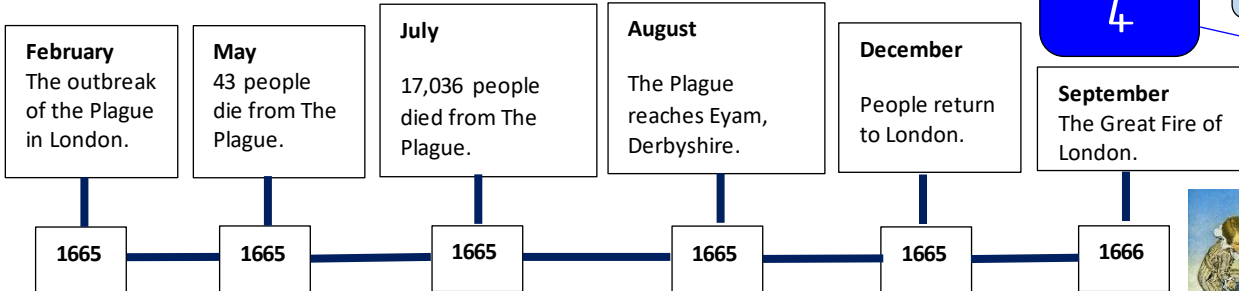
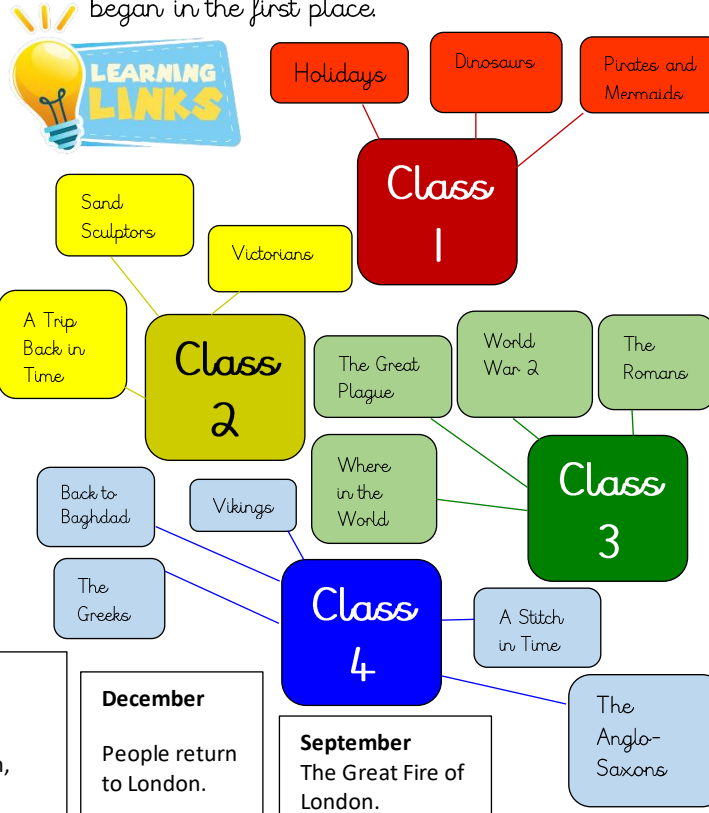
BIG Idea



The Great Plague swept across the country within a matter of months, killing thousands of people within days after contracting the illness. There was no known cure for the plague, as well as people not knowing where or how the plague began in the first place.

Sticky Knowledge

- ✓ The Great Plague started in 1665 and ended in 1666.
- ✓ The Plague killed people at an incredible rate and victims died within days of catching the illness.
- ✓ Some doctors believed that bad poisonous air was the cause of the plague, infecting anyone who breathed it. This is why people carried fresh posies of flowers.
- ✓ Symptoms included headaches, fever, vomiting, painful swellings on the neck, armpits and groin (buboes), blisters and bruises and coughing up blood.
- ✓ There was no cure for the plague. People nailed a large red cross on their doors to warn others that those inside were infected. 'God have mercy upon us' was written on the door.
- ✓ People did not understand that the plague was a disease found in black rats.
- ✓ The disease was spread by fleas. They would bite 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 Great Fire of London saw the end of the Great Plague.



Vocabulary



- Fever**- an abnormally high body temperature.
- Vomiting**- another word for being sick
- Swelling**- an abnormal enlargement of a part of the body, typically as a result of an accumulation of fluid
- Red cross**- a red cross painted over the front door of the house to alert passes by that the people inside the house had the plague.
- Contagious**- the spread of a disease from one person to another through direct contact.
- Plague Doctor**- a doctor/physician who treated people with symptoms of the plague. They wore long black coats, hats, gloves, carried a stick and wore a beak-shaped mask with sweet smelling flowers in it.
- Rats**- a member of the rodent family and resembles a large mouse.
- Fleas**- a small wingless jumping insect which feeds on the blood of mammals and birds.
- Blisters**- a small bubble on the skin filled with fluid.
- Eyam**- a small town in Derbyshire.
- Spread**- moving from one person to another, or from one place to another within a country.
- Domestic animals**- animals usually associated with living in a person's home, such as a cat or dog.
- Hygiene**- the practice of keeping yourself and your surroundings clean, especially in order to prevent illness or the spread of diseases.
- Living conditions**- the state or cleanliness of a person's house or place where they lived.