

MAPPING THE BLACK DEATH

Purpose

Deepen your understanding of the causes and effects of the Black Death by creating a causal map. This will allow you to see that causation is rarely linear.

Process

1. Follow these directions to complete the causal map on page 2:

- For each circle that's a cause, write the letter "C" next to it. For consequences/effects, write the letter "E" next to those circles.
- Now, fill in the empty cause and effect circles and create new circles until you use all the causes and effects in the box below. Keep in mind that causes can lead to other causes, and effects can lead to other effects.

Black Death causes and effects

- | | | |
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| • Mongol rule created a period of peace allowing for increased trade | • Initially, production and distribution decline | • Invention of larger ships and domestication of camels increased trade |
| • Increased and long-distance networks that started as far back as 6000 BCE. | • Lack of urban planning, which contributed to cities becoming dense, damp, and unsanitary | • The use of certain medical practices such as bloodletting, which helped the virus spread |
| • Approximately 100 million people die | • Lack of personal hygiene, including the washing of hands, helped spread the disease | • Wages increase, and a new middle class emerges |



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2. What do you think is the most historically significant cause of the Black Death? Explain your response.

3. What do you think is the most historically significant consequence of the Black Death? Explain your response.