

The Spread of the Plague

Trade Routes and Plague

Increased trade spread new goods across Europe. However, it also spread the worst disease in European history—the bubonic plague.

■ Northern Europeans traded wool cloth, grain, wine, and silver for silk, perfume, and spices from Asia.

■ Goods from Asia passed through the Mediterranean, and so did the bubonic plague. Rats, fleas, and people spread the plague along trade routes.

■ In five years the bubonic plague killed a quarter of the people in Europe.



Top 10 Cities, 1200

Rank	City (Modern Country)	Population
1	Hangzhou (China)	255,000
2	Fez (Morocco)	200,000
3	Cairo (Egypt)	200,000
4	Pagan (Myanmar [Burma])	180,000
5	Kamakura (Japan)	175,000
6	Angkor (Cambodia)	150,000
7	Constantinople (Turkey)	150,000
8	Palermo (Italy)	150,000
9	Marrakech (Morocco)	150,000
10	Seville (Spain)	150,000

A In 1200 most of the largest cities were in Asia and Africa. In what region were the largest European cities?

European Trade 1200–1360

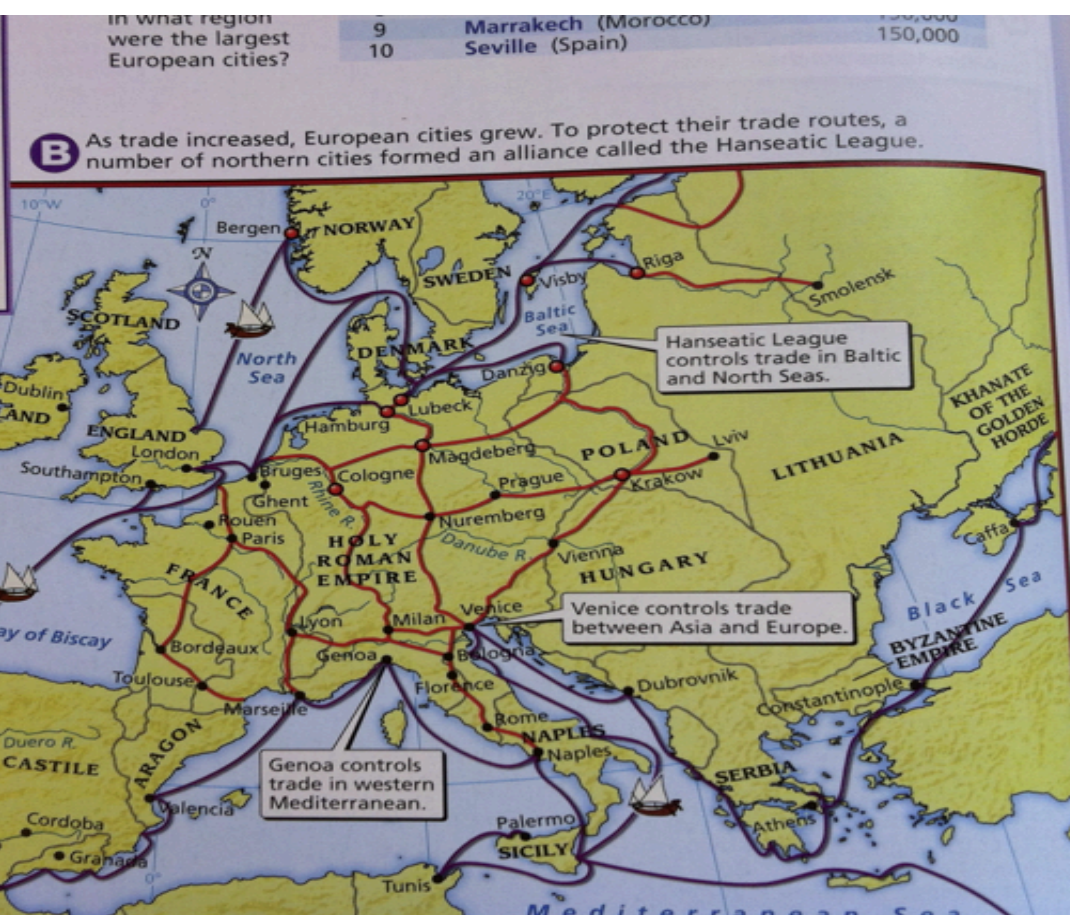
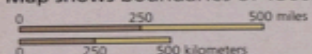
Main Trade Routes

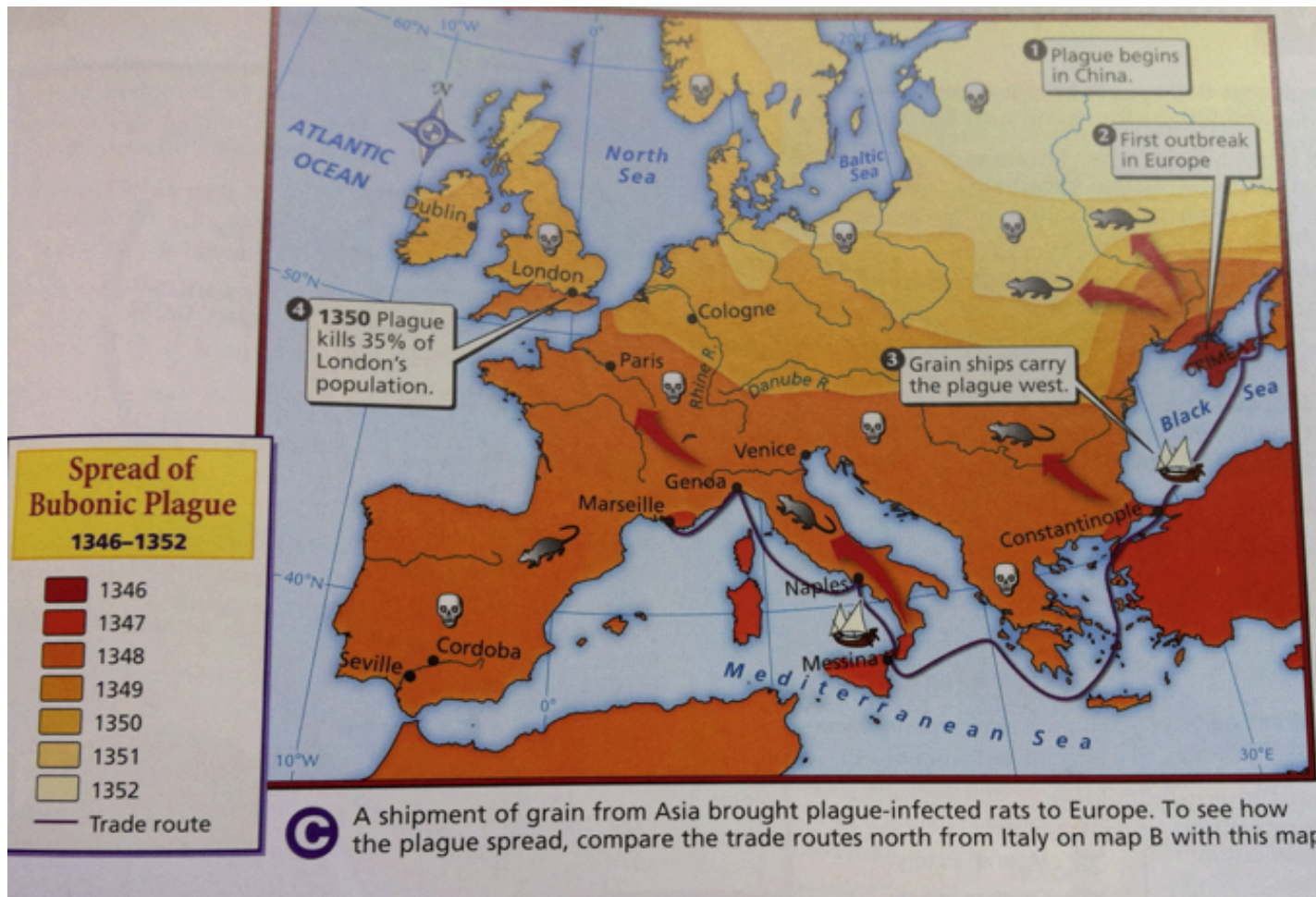
Main Trade Routes

- By land and river
- By sea

- City in Hanseatic League
- Other city

Map shows boundaries of 1360.





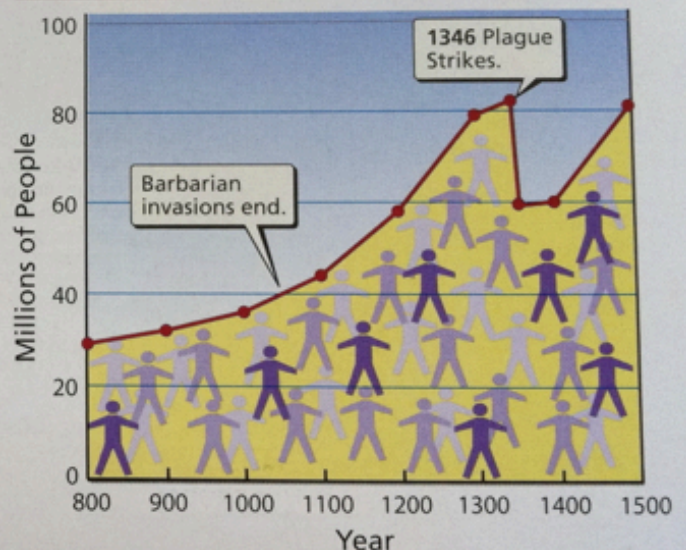
How did the plague change Europe?

A disease as deadly as the bubonic plague can alter a society. After the plague years, surviving European peasants demanded higher wages and lower taxes. Nobles had to accept their demands because so few workers were left.



D Trade from the eastern Mediterranean made Venice rich. But trade also added plague to its overcrowding and poor sanitation, devastating the city.

Population of Europe 800-1500



E Relatively peaceful times allowed Europe's population to rise—until the plague struck. How many years did it take for the population of Europe to recover?

