

Lord Mayor rules ok?

Plague had repeatedly struck Britain since the Middle Ages, but the severe outbreak in 1665 in London forced new developments in public health

The infectious nature of the plague was recognised, and victims were kept isolated but there was no real understanding of the nature of the plague and its causes.

Here are some of the actions ordered by the Lord Mayor of London:

Each infected house to have one or two watchmen to ensure no one entered or left the house.

No animals to be kept within the city e.g. pigs, cats, dogs, pigeons or rabbits.

Any woman attending that house must not leave for 28 days after the person has deceased.

No food stock that is putrid to be sold or kept on the streets.

Women must be appointed in every town/village to check that the people within the boarded up houses have died from the plague, these women are not allowed to work as a shopkeeper or laundry maid.

All street performers to be banned from the city, including bear-baiting, plays etc.

The burial of the dead must be either before sunrise or after sunset. All graves should be at least six foot deep.

All disorderly ale-houses, coffee shops to be closed.

Bedding of the deceased must be aired by a fire and perfumed before being used again.

Each household should be responsible for sweeping the front of their houses. This rubbish would then be collected daily.



ACTIVITIES



In your exercise book, take a double page and write the heading and date.

Make a sub-heading for the left page “USEFUL”
And for the right page – “NOT MUCH USE”

Discuss the Lord Mayor’s rules with your neighbour. Agree which rules might help to control the plague and which would NOT have been much use.

Don’t forget to think of reasons for your decisions.

Now either cut out each rule and paste it into the appropriate column OR write it out – your teacher will decide.

Under each rule write out the reason for your decision.



EXTENSION WORK – look carefully once more at all the work you have done on the plague. Imagine you were living in London at this time. Like Samuel Pepys you have kept diary. Using the information you now know, write diary entries for 5 days from July 20th 1665 at the height of the plague.