

Use the information given to answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

Black Death Vocabulary

Epidemic (n.)- a widespread occurrence of a disease	Pandemic (adj.)- widespread over a whole country or the world	Plague - (n.) a contagious bacterial disease characterized by fever, insanity, and formation of buboes, and sometimes an infection of the lungs	Yersinia Pestis - (n.) the bacteria that causes plague	Buboes - (n.) swollen lymph nodes in the armpit or groin
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The **Black Death** was a devastating epidemic that struck large portions of Asia, the Middle East, and Europe in the 14th century (1300s). In Europe, it killed over a ⅓ of the population, depending on the region. In total around the world, it is believed that at least 75 million people were killed by the disease in the mid 1300s.

Most scientists now believe that the Black Death was an outbreak of **bubonic plague**, which is a disease caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis* which lives in rodents like rats. Rats, which were common in Medieval cities, often had fleas on them. The fleas bit the rats, then jumped onto humans (or other rats) and bit them, which spread the disease to humans. Once the disease was in a person it was spread from person to person through body fluid and coughing.



Rat contracts the bacterium *Yersinia Pestis*



Flea jumps on rat and bites it and has rat blood in its mouth.



Flea jumps on human and bites, mixing rat and human blood and giving human *Yersinia Pestis*.



1. What are the **scientific names** of the Black Death?

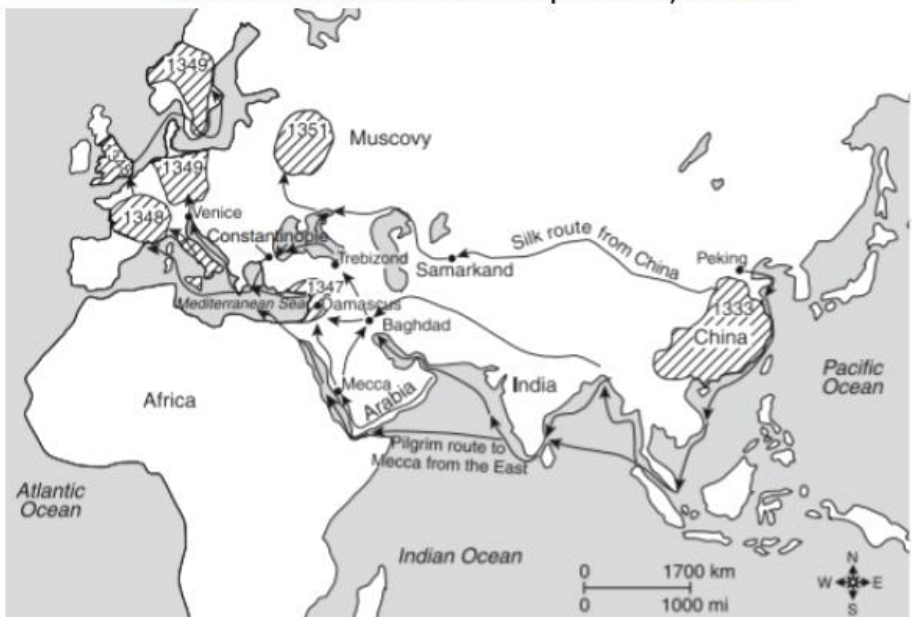
2. What **carried** and spread the Black Death?

3. Where did the Black Death **originate**?

4. What **type of routes** did the Black Death travel on?

5. How many years did it take for the Black Death to spread to **Scandinavia**?

First Incidence of Black Death in Europe and Asia, 1333-1351



Adapted from the New York State Education Department . Global History Exam January 2011. Internet. Available [here](#): accessed July 16, 2017.

	Trade routes along which the Black Death spread from China		Areas of outbreaks of plague with first known dates
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