

This is just for reference. You can download higher quality version of these pictures from the Internet. See www.channel4 .com/history/m icrosites/H/hist ory/plague/fin dout.html

The Great Plague of London Name:
Why did the Great Plague of London start?
How did people know they had the plague?
How did people try to stop the plague from spreading?
What did healthy people do?

The Great Plague of London: What did people do?

Ordinary families	
Doctor	
Shopkeeper	
Searcher	
Hunter	
Examiner	
Constable	
Watcher	
Bellman	
Corpse-bearer	

Orders of the Lord Mayor of London concerning the Plague, 1665

Examiners to enquire what houses in every parish be Visited, what persons be sick, and of what diseases. If they find one sick of the Plague, to give order to the Constable that the house be shut up.

Searchers. Women-Searchers be sworn to make search and true report whether the persons do die of the Plague. No Searcher be permitted to keep any shop or stall, or be employed as a laundress.

Doctors to join with Searchers to view the body, that there may be a true report made of the disease.

Isolation of the Sick. As soon as any be found to be sick of the Plague, they shall be shut in their house, and the house shut for a month.

Burial of the Dead be always either before sun-rising or after sun-setting. No neighbours or friends be suffered to accompany the corpse to church, or enter the dead person's house, on pain of having their own house shut up. All graves shall be at least six foot deep.

Every Visited house to be marked with a red cross a foot long, in the middle of the door, and with these usual printed words, "Lord Have Mercy Upon Us".

Every Visited house to be watched by Watchmen who shall get necessaries unto them.

The streets to be kept clean and the filth of houses be daily carried away. That no hogs, dogs, cats, tame pigeons or rabbits be kept within the city, or any pigs in the streets or lanes.

Extracts from Samuel Pepys' Diary, summer 1665

7 *June.* This day I did in Drury Lane see two or three houses marked with a red cross upon the doors and "Lord Have Mercy Upon Us" writ there; which was a sad sight to me.

15th June. The town grows very sickly, and people to be afraid of it: there dying this last week of the plague 112.

21st June. I find all the town almost going out of town, the coaches and waggons being all full of people going into the country.

1st July. To Westminster, where, I hear, the sickness increases greatly. Sad at the news, that seven or eight houses in Burying Hall Street are shut up of the plague.

20th July. Walked to Redriffe, where I hear the sickness is, and indeed is scattered almost everywhere, there dying 1089 of the plague this week. My Lady Carteret did this day give me a bottle of plague-water [to take] home with me.

30th July. It was a sad noise to hear our bell to toll and ring so often today, either for deaths or burials; I think, five or six times.

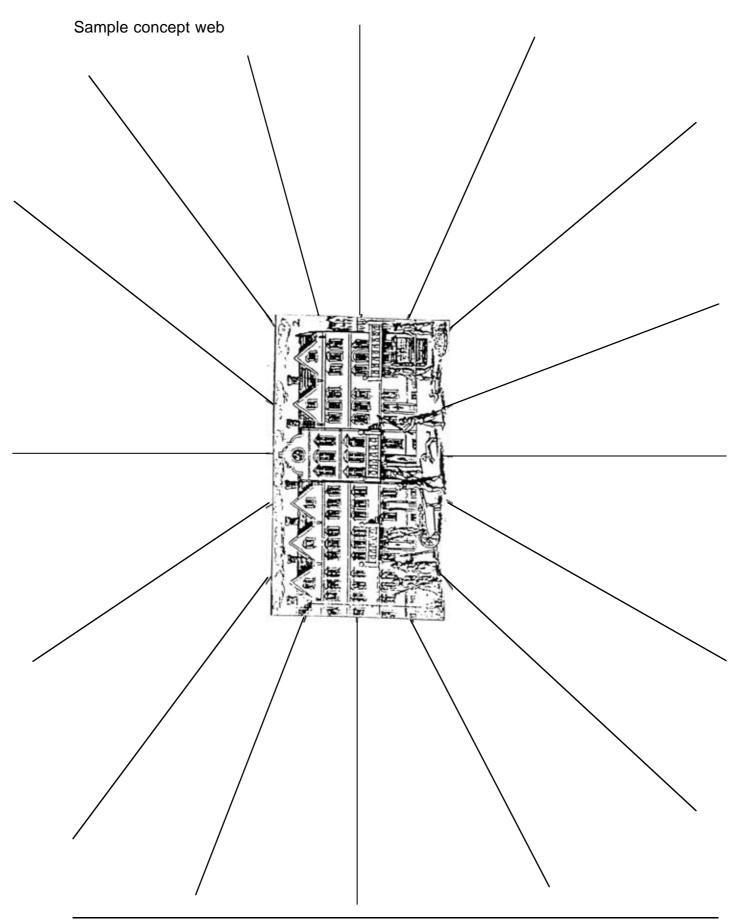
8th August. The streets empty all the way, now, even in London, which is a sad sight. And poor Will, that used to sell us ale at the Hall door, his wife and three children died, all, I think, in a day.

20th September. Worst of all, the Duke showed us the number of the plague this week, that it is increased to 7165.

16 October. But Lord how empty the streets are, and melancholy, so many poor sick people in the streets, full of sores. Everybody talking of this dead and that man sick.

THE GREAT PLAGUE IN LONDON - 1665

Carrying dead people in coffins to be buried.
Taking away dead people in a wheelbarrow, and painting a red cross on plague houses.
People coming back to London after the plague.
People leaving London by road to escape from the plague.
Inside a house where some people have the plague.
A dead person's funeral procession.
Burying people in big square pits.
Taking dead people in carts to be buried.
People leaving London in boats to escape from the plague.



THE GREAT PLAGUE OF LONDON • RESOURCES © IN THIS FORMAT NUFFIELD PRIMARY HISTORY 2003