

Cures for the Black Death

Main Task

- Listed here are 15 ways in which people tried to stop the Black Death.
1. Shade the background of each cell following this key:

KEY	
	Religion
	Magic
	Science

1. Wear a magpie's beak around your neck	2. Cut a hole into your skull to let out evil spirits	3. Hold sweet herbs to your mouth to drive away the bad air	4. Sit in a sewer. The bad smells will leave no room for the Black Death smells	5. Swallow the powder of crushed emeralds
6. Drink a glass of your own wee twice a day	7. Open your veins and let a pint of blood pour out	8. Kill all the cats and dogs in the town	9. Shave a chicken's bottom and strap it to your plague sores	10. March around town whipping yourself and asking for God's forgiveness
11. Run away to another town	12. Clean up the streets of filth and rubbish and burn the clothes of victims	13. Slice the buboes open, squeeze out the poison, then seal the wound with poo	14. Wash yourself with vinegar and rose water	15. Eat bread, fruit and vegetables, but no meat or fish

2. Put into **BOLD** all those cures which you think might have made things BETTER.
3. UNDERLINE all those cures which you think could actually have made things WORSE.

Homework Task: Produce a Medieval Warning Poster!

Your teacher will give you a number between 1-15.
 Fold a piece of A4 paper in half to make it look like a gift card.
 Inside, copy the information from the box matching your number from the table above.
 On the front, produce a colourful illustration to illustrate the point it makes.

Primary Sources (just for interest!)

Guy de Chauillac

"For cures, **bleeding** and making the patient **vomit** should be attempted. The swellings should be softened with figs and cooked onions, mixed with yeast and butter. The **swellings should be cut open**"

Guy de Chauillac

"**Toads** should be thoroughly dried in the sun. They should be placed on the plague boil. The toad will swell and draw out the poison of the plague to its own body. When it is full it should be thrown away and a new one applied"

King Edward III of England to the Lord Mayor of London

"You are to make sure that all **human waste and rotting food is removed** from the streets. All **bad smells** must be removed so that no-one will die from breathing them in".

Jean de Venette

"The Flagellants were a group of people who arranged themselves into a circle in the town square, then **flogged each other with whips spiked with iron** until the blood flowed. They begged God to forgive them their sins and spare them from the plague"