1347 – 1353

Black Death Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. Where did the Black Death first arrive in Europe in 1347?

- (A) The port of Messina in Sicily, on ships from the Black Sea
- (B) The port of Hamburg in Germany, on ships from the Baltic Sea
- (C) The port of London in England, on ships from France
- (D) The port of Lisbon in Portugal, on ships from North Africa

2. Approximately what fraction of Europe's population died in the Black Death?

- (A) About 85 to 95 percent
- (B) About 30 to 60 percent
- (C) About 10 to 15 percent
- (D) About 2 to 5 percent

3. How did the plague spread so quickly across Europe?

- (A) It spread through dirty drinking water shared by people in crowded cities
- (B) It traveled with Crusader armies marching home from the Holy Land
- (C) It spread on winds that carried it across the mountains from Asia in a few days
- (D) It traveled along the roads and sea routes that traders used between cities

4. Who did many Europeans wrongly blame for causing the Black Death?

- (A) Protestant preachers, accused of angering God
- (B) Local farmers, accused of selling spoiled grain
- (C) Jewish communities, accused of poisoning wells
- (D) Town doctors, accused of selling false cures

5. What were flagellants, and what did they believe about the plague?

- (A) Men who whipped themselves in public, believing the plague was God's punishment
- (B) Officials who ran mass burials, believing the plague spread only from dead bodies
- (C) Doctors who wore beaked masks, believing the plague came from bad air
- (D) Monks who hid in monasteries, believing the plague was a test of faith

6. What changed in European society after the Black Death ended?

- (A) Nobles gained power because workers were plentiful, and wages fell sharply
- (B) Cities grew quickly because the population doubled within ten years
- (C) Peasants gained power because workers were scarce, and the Church grew weaker
- (D) The Church gained power because many people credited it with stopping the plague

7. What eventually ended the first wave of the Black Death?

- (A) It was cured by a medicine made by doctors at the University of Paris
- (B) It faded on its own in 1353, without any effective treatment
- (C) It was halted when rulers banned all trade across Europe for ten years
- (D) It was stopped by a vaccine given to people in every major port city

8. What caused the Black Death?

- (A) The smallpox virus, carried by blankets and clothing on trade ships
- (B) The influenza virus, carried by coughs and sneezes in crowded towns
- (C) The cholera bacterium, carried by dirty well water in crowded medieval cities
- (D) The bacterium Yersinia pestis, carried by fleas on rats aboard trade ships

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Black Death Quiz: Answer Key

1. **A** The port of Messina in Sicily, on ships from the Black Sea

2. **B** About 30 to 60 percent

3. **D** It traveled along the roads and sea routes that traders used between cities

4. **C** Jewish communities, accused of poisoning wells

5. **A** Men who whipped themselves in public, believing the plague was God's punishment

6. **C** Peasants gained power because workers were scarce, and the Church grew weaker

7. **B** It faded on its own in 1353, without any effective treatment

8. **D** The bacterium Yersinia pestis, carried by fleas on rats aboard trade ships