The Black Death

During the 1300s a deadly plague spread from Asia to Europe. Traders sailing the sea routes from Asia to the Mediterranean unknowingly brought rats carrying the disease aboard their ships. The disease spread rapidly from Mediterranean ports inland. Within a few years the plague swept through much of Europe and millions of people died.

MAP ACTIVITY

1. Number each event on the time line to show the order in which each event occurred. Find the location of each event on the map and write its number on the map.

2. On the map, use a bright color to trace the route of the ships that carried the Black Death from Kaffa to Constantinople.

3. Use a different bright color to trace the sea routes where the Black Death spread from Constantinople to Lübeck.
4. Update the map legend to show the colors that you added to the map.

**ANALYZING MAPS**

1. **Movement** In what country did the Black Death start?

2. **Place** What countries in Europe had the Black Death spread to by 1348?

3. **Evaluate** Why do you think the Black Death spread to more areas in Europe than it did in Asia?

4. **Human/Environment Interaction** Why do you think the Black Death affected more cities near the Mediterranean Sea than near the Black Sea?
Biography
Blanche of Castile

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?
1. Possible answers: Blanche was a good negotiator, an effective diplomat, and a great leader.
2. Possible answers: Blanche brought stability to France by putting down rebellions. She replaced rebel noble groups with commoners. She organized local militias. She established truces with England and southern France.
3. Accept reasonable answers.

Literature

CALL-OUT BOXES:
1. at a home near the city of Cameliard
2. over which had displayed the most bravery and which most deserved to sit next to King Arthur; they are jealous and want attention
3. “I foresee that if Guinevere is your queen, she may bring great harm to your kingdom.”
4. “The cap’s magic had changed Arthur into a gardening boy.”

ANALYZING LITERATURE
1. so that Guinevere will willingly consent to marry Arthur and won’t know who he is
2. possible answer: she will fall in love with the gardening boy and later realize it is King Arthur

Primary Source The Siege and Capture of Nicea, May 21 to June 19, 1097

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?
1. A lake was on one side of the city wall; the overflow of small streams contributed to the city’s defense by filling moats around the remaining three sides.
2. The testudo protected them against attacks from above, so that they were able to dig under the tower.
3. Answers will vary but should show some understanding that the Crusaders took the Turks’ failure as evidence that God was on their side.

Primary Source Michael Platiensis, The Black Death Strikes Sicily

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?
1. The corpses were left lying around, buried by servants, or thrown into trenches.
2. The residents of the town fled their homes and scattered throughout Sicily, bringing the plague with them.
3. Accept any reasonable answer. Examples: Family members turned against one another; the disease killed people rapidly and without exception; fear forced people from their homes.

History and Geography

MAP ACTIVITY
1. Numbering of time line:
   1. 1331, an outbreak of plague occurs in eastern Asia
   2. 1338–1339, the Black Death spreads to western Asia
   3. 1346, the Black Death reaches the coast of the Black Sea
   4. 1347, ships sailing from Kaffa carry the plague to Constantinople
   5. 1348, the Black Death reaches Spain
   6. 1349, the Black Death spreads to Scandinavia
   7. 1350, the Black Death spreads to central Europe
   8. 1351, the Black Death spreads to most of northern Europe
2. Students should trace the routes from Kaffa through the Black Sea to Constantinople.
3. Students should trace the sea routes.
4. Three additions to map legend should match colors the students used on the map.
ANALYZING MAPS
1. China
2. Greece, Italy, France, Spain, and Britain
3. Answers will vary. Sample answer: I think the Black Death spread to more regions in Europe because traders carried the disease in ships that sailed along the coast of Europe. The Black Death then spread from cities along the coast to the interior of Europe. In Asia, there were not as many cities along the coast where ships stopped.
4. Traders traveling by sea routes stopped at more cities along the Mediterranean Sea than they did along the Black Sea. This helped spread the disease from the ships to the cities near the Mediterranean Sea.

Economics and History

ACTIVITY
You may wish to verify that students have properly filled in the graphic organizer.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?
1. To finance the crusades, serfs were allowed to buy their freedom and sometime their land. This increase in townspeople and free farmers eventually undermined feudalism.
2. The heightened level of trade that came as a result of the crusades led to the expansion of cities and towns. Serfs were sometimes allowed to buy their freedom, and this also changed the European population in dramatic ways.
3. Rice, coffee, spices, and new fruits were brought to Europe through the crusades. Mirrors, cotton cloth, and wheelbarrows also made their first appearances in Europe in the same manner.
4. European sailors began to use the Arabic compass and astrolabe to find better sea routes for their journeys. This eventually led to the discovery of the New World.

Social Studies Skills

PRACTICE AND APPLY THE SKILL
1. Catalan and Aragonese
2. 2

3. Students’ answers will vary, but could recognize that the Arabs, known as Moors, were driven from the peninsula.

Chapter Review

REVIEWING VOCABULARY, TERMS, AND PEOPLE
1. Saladin
2. St. Francis of Assisi
3. Holy Land
4. St. Thomas Aquinas
5. Magna Carta

COMPREHENSION AND CRITICAL THINKING
1. Hundred Years’ War
2. popes and kings
3. Inquisition
4. Crusades
5. friars

REVIEW ACTIVITY: THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTOR
Students’ selections of the persons who made important contributions to the later Middle Ages will vary, but should include detailed descriptions of each person’s achievements and a well-reasoned argument to support their selections.