

# Late Middle Ages: Time of Upheaval



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- Understand how the Black Death caused social and economic decline.
- Describe the problems facing the Church in the late Middle Ages and how the Church reacted.
- Summarize the causes, turning points, and effects of the Hundred Years' War.

# The Black Death

In 1347 sailors began falling sick & within months the **Black Death** began. 1 in 3 people died!

This was the bubonic plague carried by fleas on rats.

**Epidemic-** Outbreak of rapid-spreading disease.  
Black death killed about 35 million Chinese.

People would panic looking toward magic & witchcraft for cures or wild pleasure.

# The Plague

**Some Christians believed that Jews caused the plague leading to the murder of thousands of them**

**People died, production declined, & the cost of labor soared along with prices**

**Many communities would revolt against the government due to the fear of the plague**

**After the plague the demand for wages began a worker & consumer revolution for Europe, leading them into the modern age**

# Crisis in the Church

The Church had to answer the hard question,  
“Why did God spare some & kill  
others?”

Critics would argue against the wealth of the  
church & the moral authority weakened.

**John Wycliffe** attacked corruption in the church &  
believed that the Bible was the source of truth,  
not the church

# The Hundred Years' War

France & England would be engaged in a series of wars that would devastate France & drain England

They argued over who controlled the lands to the North of France.

The invention of the **longbow** turned the tide of war. It fired 3 armor piercing arrows

**Joan of Arc** - Believed that God sent her to save France. She had many victories & rallied the French

She is captured by England & burned at the stake for witchcraft. She is later declared a Saint.

# Results

The French invent the **cannon** & take on England offensively.

England loses the war with France, but sets its sights on overseas ventures.

This would set the stage for the Renaissance, Reformation, & Age of Exploration