

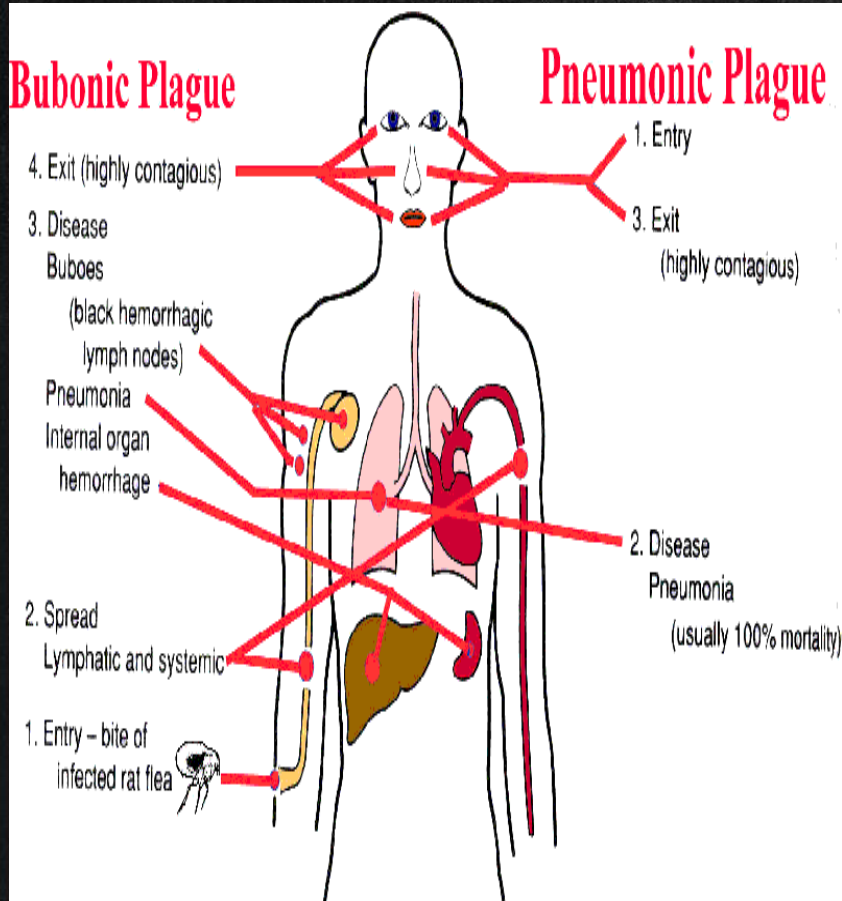
The Black Death



1347 - 1351



The Black Plague



- Highly contagious disease that spread across Europe from 1347-1351
- Disease was **almost always fatal**
- Symptoms
 - Swollen lymph nodes
 - Large dark splotches on the skin
 - “The Black Death”
 - High fever
 - Vomiting
 - Painful headaches



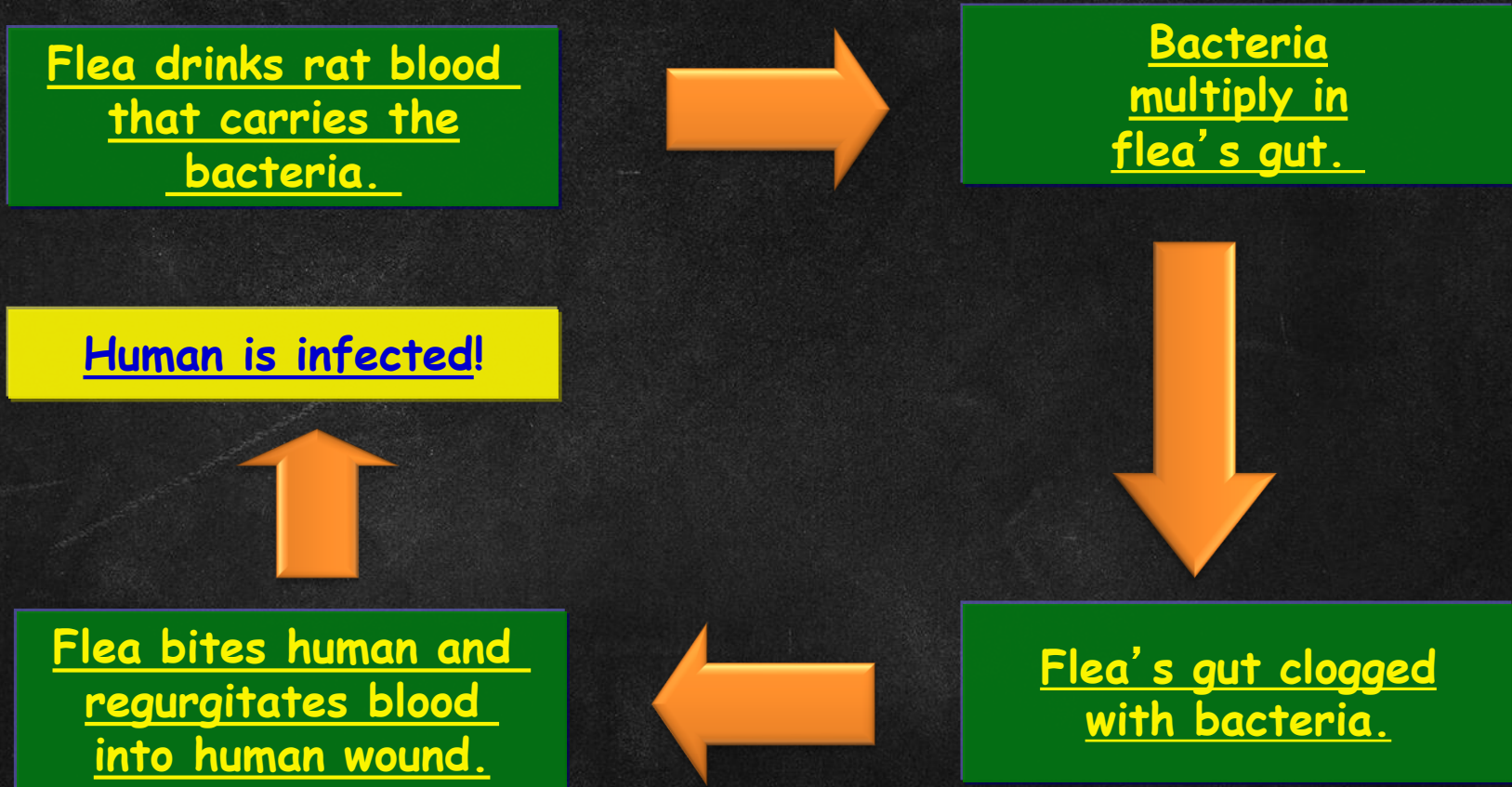
Origins of the Plague

- Believed to have started in Chinese cities around 1331



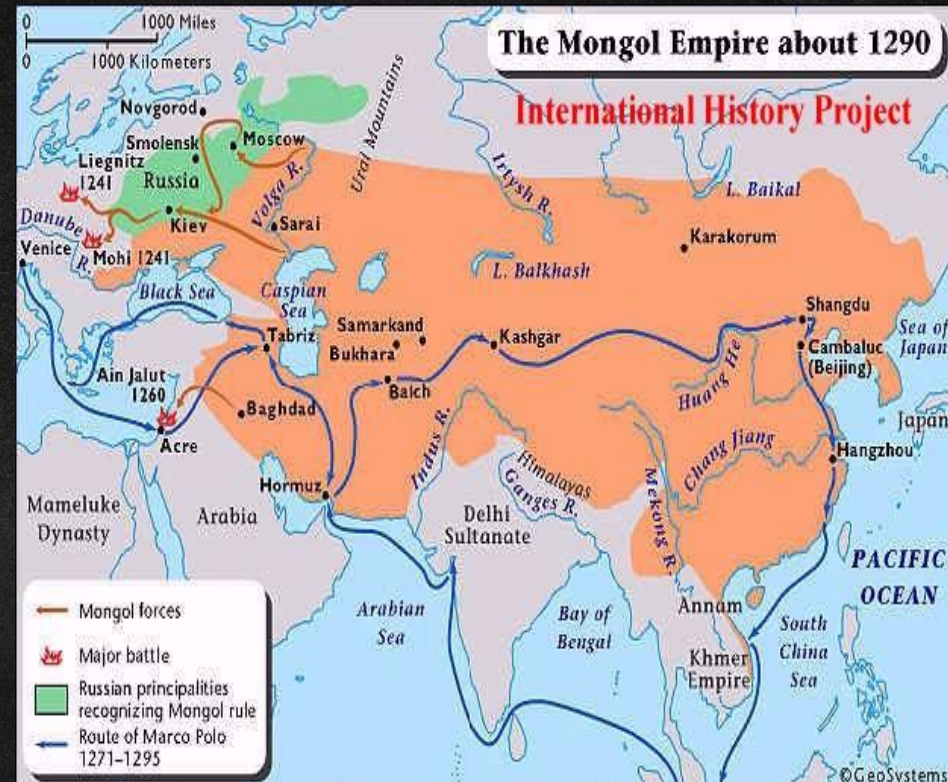
Origins of the Plague

Plague was spread by fleas that lived on rats



Origins of the Plague

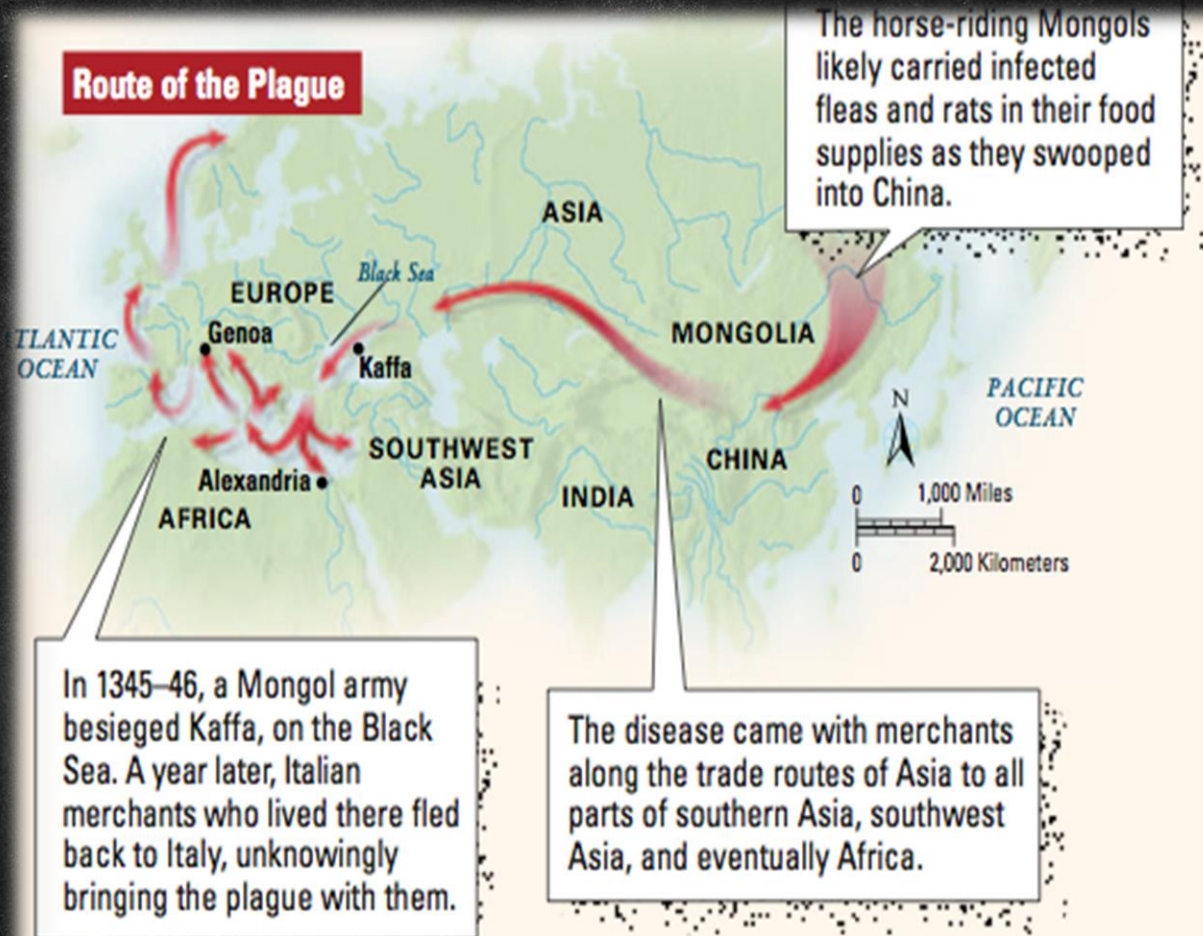
- Disease spread rapidly through **crowded urban cities**
- Mongol armies helped spread the plague
 - used **infected bodies** as a **biological weapon**
 - Launched dead bodies into cities they were laying siege to

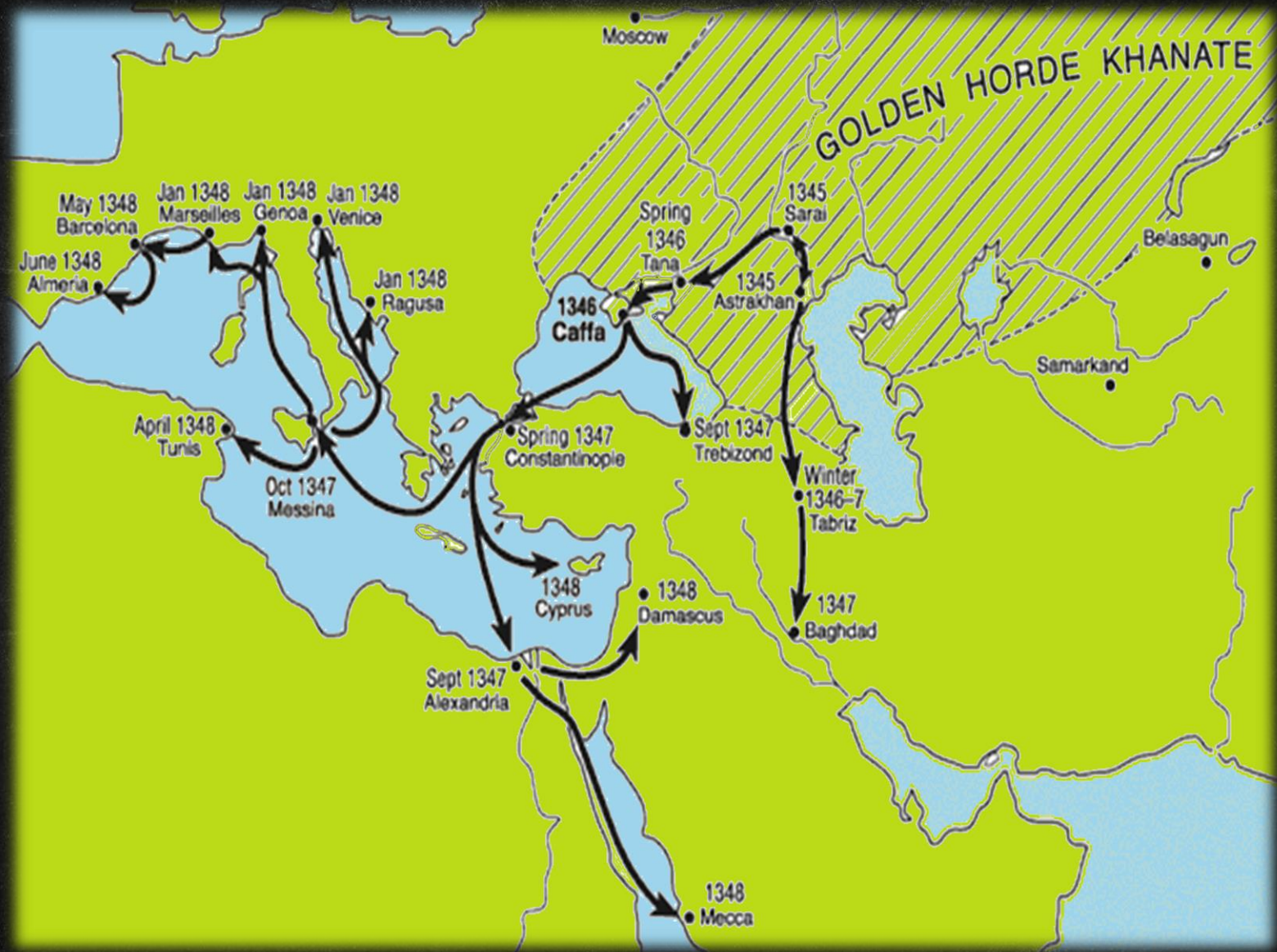


Plague Arrives in Europe

• **Resurgence of trade** helped spread plague into Europe

- Fleas on rats spread from trading ships into Europe
- Enters through Sicily and then Italian City states
- Quickly spreads through Europe





Plague Arrives in Europe

- Unsanitary conditions in cities/towns created large populations of **rats** which carried the disease
 - Fleas leapt from rats to people





Plague Arrives in Europe

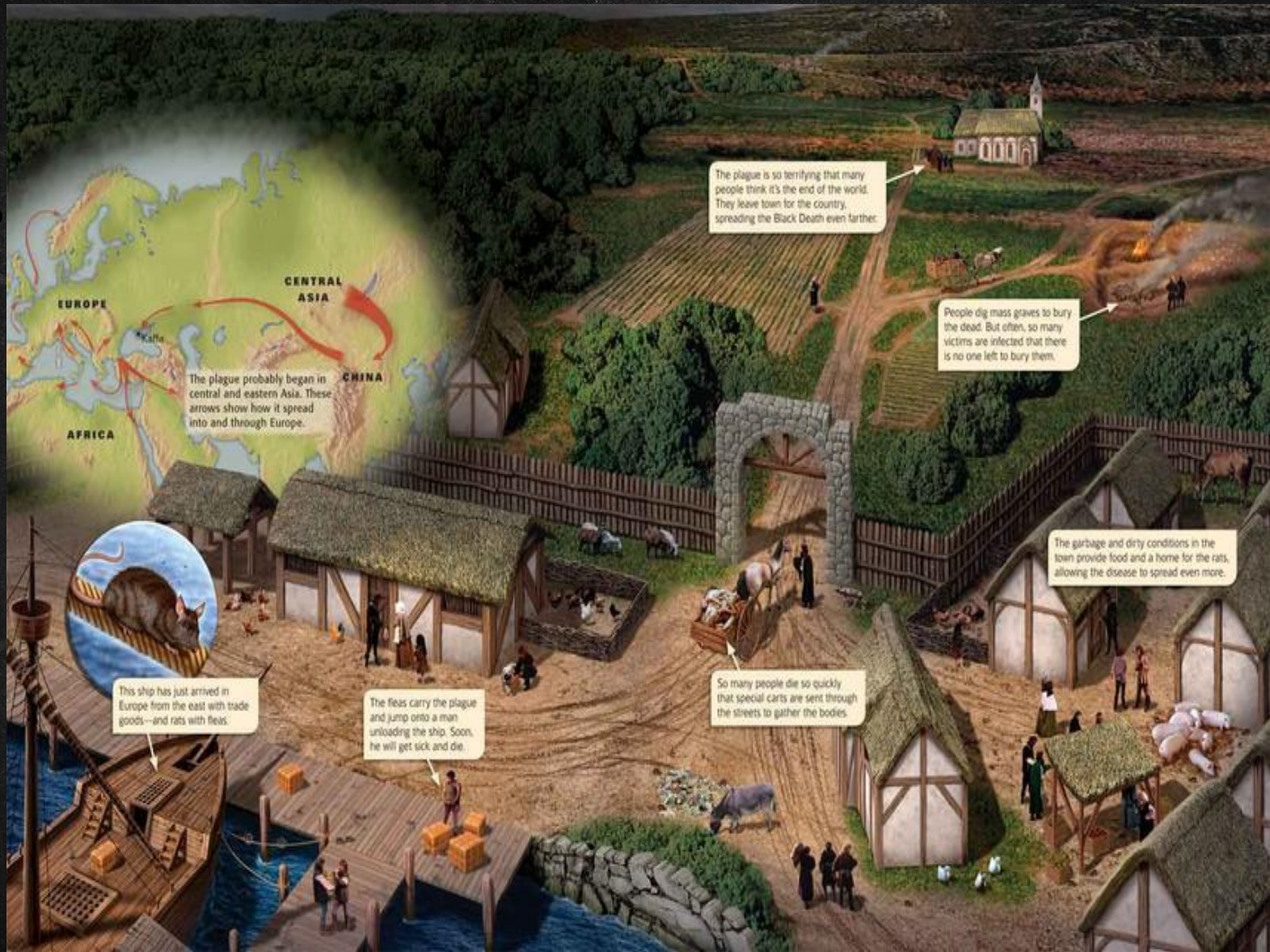
- Mutated version of plague could be spread through the air
 - Much **deadlier** and could kill within a day
- Doctors could not treat the disease
 - Tried bloodletting and folk medicine
 - Some people turned to magic and witchcraft



THE 'BLACK DEATH'
ENTERED ENGLAND IN 1348
THROUGH THIS PORT.

IT KILLED 30-50%
OF THE COUNTRY'S
TOTAL POPULATION





Plague Arrives in Europe

- Some believed that the plague was a **punishment from God**
- Some people blamed it on **Jews** who, they claimed, were **poisoning wells**
 - Jews attacked and killed in some parts of Europe



Plague Arrives in Europe

- The Flagellants
 - Groups of **people** who wandered through towns and countryside **doing public penance**
 - **Inflicted punishments on themselves to atone** for the evil of the world
 - Killed Jews they encountered




Impact of the Bubonic Plague


- Huge Population losses
 - 25 million Europeans killed
 - 35 Million Chinese killed

The Plague in the 14th Century

Death Toll, 1300s

KEY  = 4 million

Western Europe  20–25 million

Southwest Asia  4 million

China  35 million



Economic Impact of the Bubonic Plague



- Town populations declined
 - Dramatic decrease in trade
 - Prices increased

Economic Impact of the Plague

- Large death rate decreased the number of available workers
 - Farm production declined
 - Allowed remaining workers to demand higher wages
 - Nobles resisted which led to peasant revolts
- Many **serfs left the manors** for better jobs in the cities
- Led to the **end of the manorial system**



Social & Political Impact of the Plague

- **Feudalism declined** as peasant revolts weakened the power of landowners over peasants
- **Monarchs gained more power** and began to build powerful nations



Social & Political Impact of the Plague

- Led people to question their religious faith and the Church
 - Seemed powerless to stop the plague
 - Some clergy fled towns and others charged high prices to perform services for dying victims



Cultural Impact of the Plague

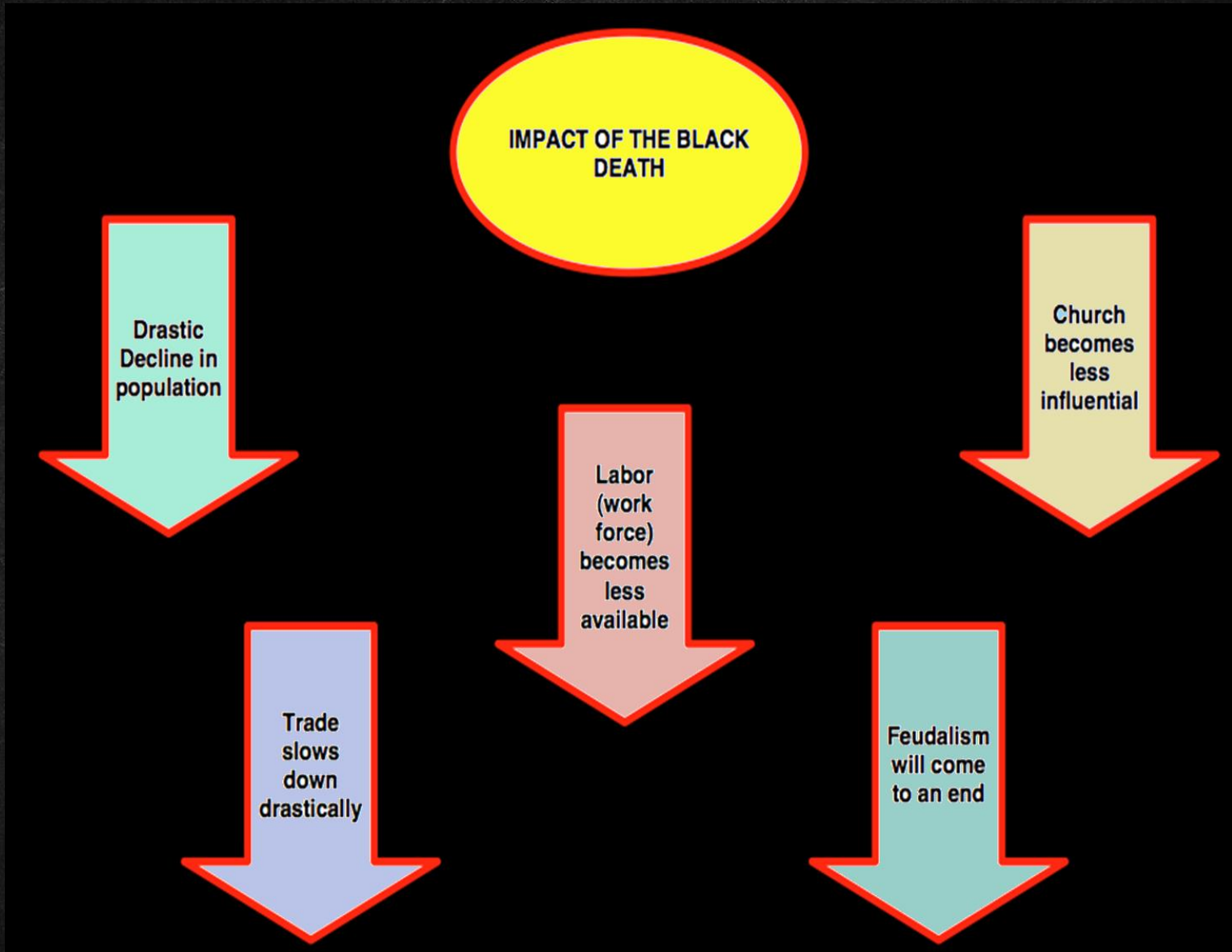
- Images of death appear frequently in the art and literature of the time period



Cultural Impact of the Plague

- Some people became pessimistic about life and feared the future.
 - “Happy are those that have no children”
- Other people became preoccupied with pleasure and self indulgence.
 - “Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow you die”





Closure

- How did the plague make its way to Europe?
- What type conditions in cities and towns allowed the plague to spread easily?

Further
development:<https://www.historyextra.com/period/medieval/plague-black-death-quarantine-history-how-stop-spread/>

