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| Outbreak: A Webquest about Epidemics AND their Effect on History |

Ring around the rosesPocket full of posiesAshes, ashesWe all fall down

A popular children's rhyme has darker origins: a rhyme that told a grim tale for those who had been infected with bubonic or Black Plague. The word "roses" referred to a red rash that was often the first symptom of infection. Posies were flowers that were put in the pockets that were thought to protect you from the disease. In other interpretations, the posies covered up the horrible smell of those with the disease and all of the corpses that piled up in the streets. "Ashes" could have referred to cremated bodies or it may have originally been "a-choo" to represent sneezing. Obviously, "we all fall down" refers to the deaths of those who had been infected. In London, at the time of the outbreak in the 1600s, the death rate was over 60%.

Humans have always been under assault from pathogens. Until the development of the germ theory, and techniques for sterilization, people did not understand why you got sick or how to effectively treat diseases. Epidemics could cause the breakdown of society when lawmakers, doctors, and police all fell ill. A plague could turn away armies, end wars, and cause a complete change in a government or culture. Plagues could even wipe out whole groups of people and destroy cultures.

In this webquest, you will investigate a communicable disease and publish your findings as a PowerPoint presentation, a poster, or a web page.

Process

1. Choose Your Disease: Determine what disease you would like to investigate and have your choice approved by Mr. Farshtey. In this quest, you will only be focusing on communicable diseases, or those diseases that can be passed from person to person. (This then would exclude genetic disorders and most types of cancer and auto-immune disease). CHOOSE ONE of the topics on the disease list posted on the class website 🡪 DUE AT START OF CLASS on THURSDAY, 1/10

2. Research Your Disease: You are going to need to find specific information about the disease. You can include more information if you like, but make sure you have the following questions answered somewhere in your presentation.

* *Keep track of any websites of sources you have visited.*
1. What is the history of the disease? Where was it first discovered?
2. What are the symptoms of the disease? How is it diagnosed?
3. How does a person contract the disease?
4. What is the prognosis for the patient? (How long will they remain sick, will they die, are they contagious, will there be lingering effects...)
5. How can the disease be treated or cured?
6. How can the disease be prevented? Are there vaccines or antibiotics?
7. What is the future of this disease? Are we likely to ever cure it? Is the disease useful in some other way?
8. Interesting facts or trivia about the disease, interesting cases or famous (infamous) people/events related to the disease
* RESEARCH DUE DATES [by END of class]:
	+ Question 1 – FRIDAY, 1/11
	+ Questions 2 and 3 – MONDAY, 1/14
	+ Questions 4 and 5 – WEDNESDAY, 1/16
	+ Questions 6 and 7 – THURSDAY, 1/17
	+ Question 8 – FRIDAY, 1/18

3. Build Your Presentation: Decide how you will present your topic 🡪 use your notes as a guide for determining layout and flow of the information.

* Include a final page or section that cites resources you used [URLs (web addresses) are acceptable]
* PRESENTATIONS in class on WEDNESDAY, 1/23

## Resources

[**Centers for Disease Control**](http://www.cdc.gov/)

[**World Health Organization**](http://www.who.int/en/)

[**WebMD**](http://www.webmd.com/)

[**National Foundation for Infectious Diseases**](http://nfid.org/)

[**Medscape Infectious Diseases**](http://emedicine.medscape.com/infectious_diseases)