

**Project Focus: Peasants, Princes and Pestilence**

**Suggestions of activities children might like to complete:**

- Search your local library to find out if the plague of the 14th century affected a village or town near you. What information can you find out?
- Write a letter to a child of the 21st century, imagining you are a peasant child of the 14th century. What could you tell them about your life?
- Design a coat of arms for your family. What symbols would you use and what would they represent? What would be your family motto?
- Find out what happens when something decomposes. Place an apple core, orange or grape in a transparent container and watch as it decomposes. Document what happens.
- Use a map of the UK to identify castles of the Middle Ages. Make a scrapbook or journal to research facts about one of them. Be prepared to present your scrapbook to others.
- Make a model rat out of papier mâché. Paint it to make it look realistic. Take a picture of your rat in different places but try not to scare anyone!

**Suggestions of possible places to visit, books or websites to research:**

- *Children of Winter* by Berlie Doherty
- *Deadly Diseases* (Horrible Science) by Nick Arnold
- *Measly Middle Ages* (Horrible Histories) by Terry Deary
- *Palaces, Peasants and Plagues: England in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century* (Collins Big Cat) by Richard Platt
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/z7r7hyc/revision/1> A summary of causes and consequences of the Black Death.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRZYb2Jl22g> An informative video about how the plague spread.
- <http://broughttolife.sciencemuseum.org.uk/broughttolife/themes/publichealth/blackdeath?keywords=black+death> Science Museum website exploring the history of medicine and the impact of the Black Death on ideas about public health.
- <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/plague.htm> A collection of accounts and information about the spread of the Black Death.