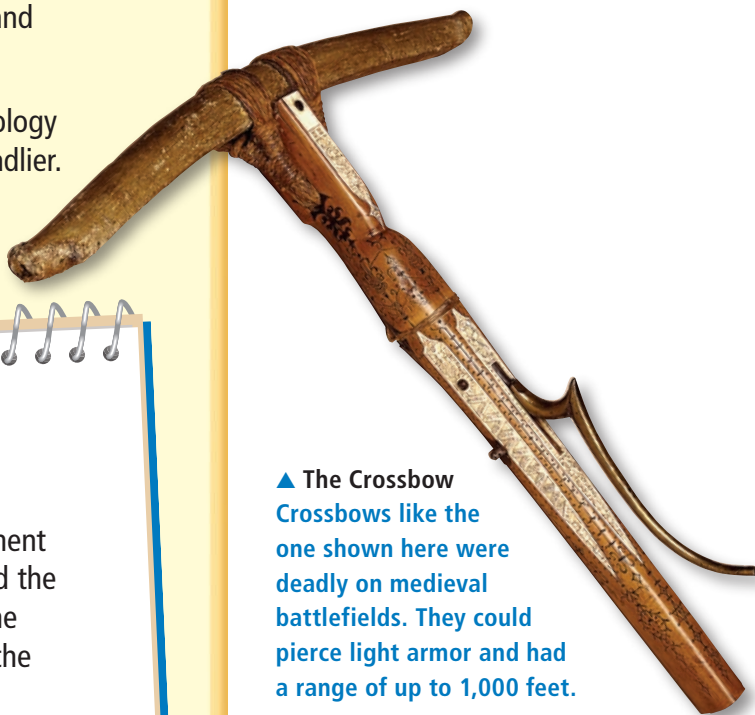


# Lesson 3

## MAIN IDEAS

- 1 Culture** Disease devastated Asia, Africa, and Europe in the early to mid-1300s.
- 2 Science and Technology** Military technology during the Hundred Years' War became deadlier.
- 3 Government** The Hundred Years' War helped to end feudalism.

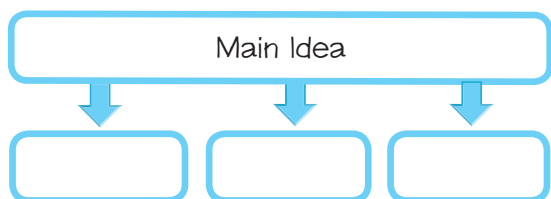


▲ The Crossbow  
Crossbows like the one shown here were deadly on medieval battlefields. They could pierce light armor and had a range of up to 1,000 feet.

## TAKING NOTES

### Reading Skill: Finding Main Ideas

Finding a main idea means finding a statement that explains the main point of a lesson and the details to support it. Use a chart like the one below to list each main idea provided and the details from the lesson that support it.



 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R2

### CALIFORNIA STANDARDS

**7.6** Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval Europe.

**7.6.7** Map the spread of the bubonic plague from Central Asia to China, the Middle East, and Europe and describe its impact on global population.

**HI 2** Students understand and distinguish cause, effect, sequence, and correlation in historical events, including the long- and short-term causal relations.

# Plague and the Hundred Years' War

## TERMS & NAMES

bubonic plague

Hundred Years' War

Joan of Arc

longbow

**Build on What You Know** The Crusades you read about in Lesson 2 began the decline of feudalism in Europe. In Lesson 3, you will learn about a series of crises—including the plague that you read about in the opening story—that further weakened feudalism in Europe.

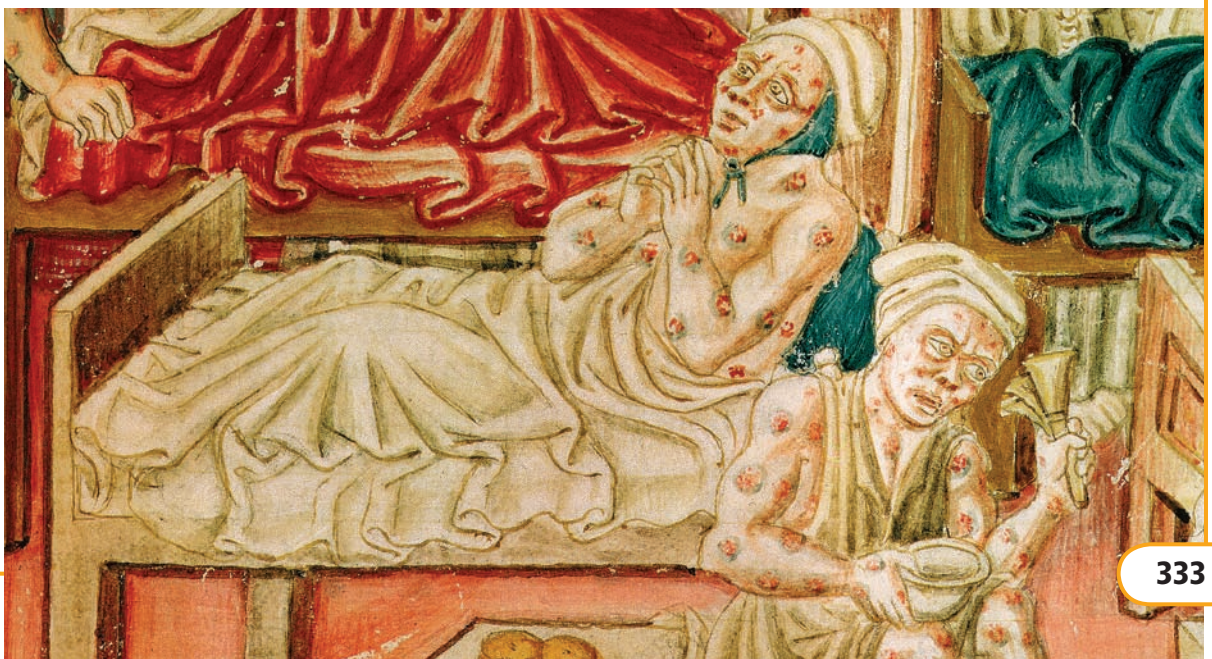
## The Plague

**1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION** How did disease affect the world in the 1300s?

Before the end of the century, the plague had killed tens of millions of people in Europe, North Africa, and western Asia. In Europe, about one-third of the total population was killed.

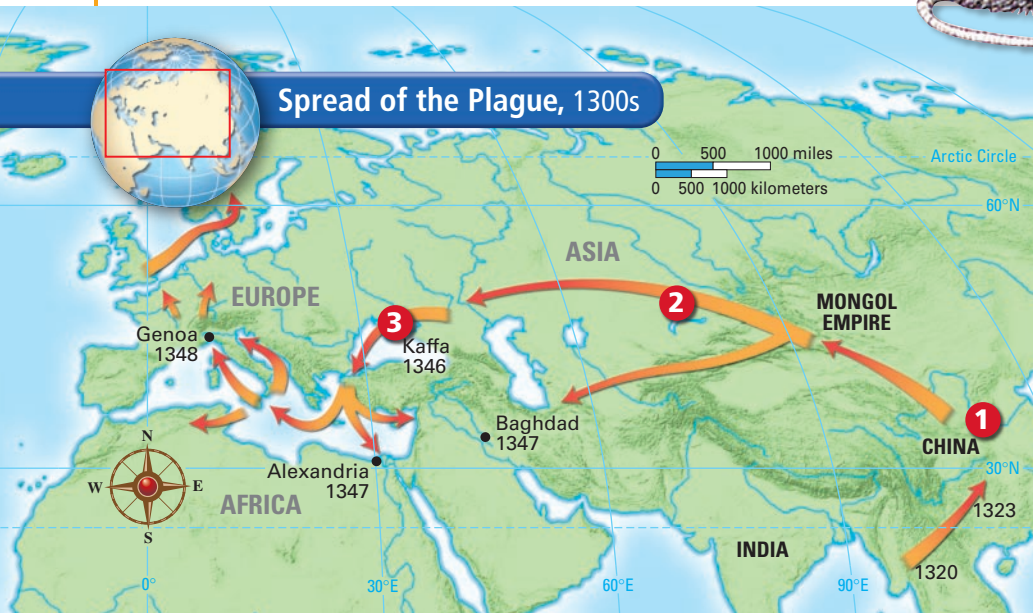
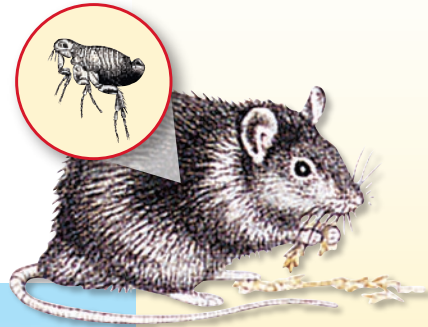
**Spread of the Disease** The plague that struck western Eurasia in the mid-1300s is called **bubonic plague**. Its victims experienced severe chills, fever, convulsions, and vomiting. Victims also developed dark spots on their skin and swollen glands. A person infected with the bubonic plague was usually dead within a few days. The plague of the 1300s became known as the Black Death.

**The Plague** One of the symptoms of the plague was dark spots on the skin, evident in this painting from the period. ▼



## The Spread of the Plague

Scholars believe the plague spread from Central Asia. It moved by land along trade routes from Asia to Europe. It also moved along sea routes. In October 1347, a trading ship brought the disease to Italy. The disease then traveled rapidly north. By the following spring, the plague had spread to France, Germany, and as far north as England.



- 1 The plague probably spread from Central Asia, but it is impossible to know for certain.
- 2 Rats carrying infected fleas traveled with merchants along trade routes.
- 3 Italian merchants unknowingly brought the plague to Europe.

**SKILLBUILDER**  
**INTERPRETING VISUALS**  
How did the plague travel from Asia to Europe?

**Global Impact of the Plague** The massive loss of life caused by the plague had a major impact on Asia, North Africa, and Europe. Christians and Muslims reacted differently to the plague. Christians often saw the plague as a punishment for sin. By comparison, Muslims saw the plague as testing their faith in God. Regardless of their faith, the plague had killed 20 to 30 million people by 1400.

For a short time, wars stopped and trade declined. Some landowners were ruined by a shortage of labor. However, this was followed by economic recovery for some people. For example, European workers were so scarce that those able to work could demand higher pay for their labor. The shortage of labor and higher wages weakened feudalism because workers began to migrate in search of higher wages.

In Europe, the hostility toward Jews that developed during the Crusades continued during the bubonic plague. Jews were often accused of causing the plague by poisoning water wells. They were driven out of many German towns during the plague.

**REVIEW** How did the plague affect the size of Europe's population?

## The Hundred Years' War

### 2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Who fought in the Hundred Years' War?

In the 1300s, England and France faced not only the plague but frequent warfare as well. Between 1337 and 1453, England and France fought each other in the **Hundred Years' War**. It was actually a series of wars—not one continuous battle.

**Background for the War** William, Duke of Normandy, was from the Norman region of France. He claimed to be the rightful king of England. In 1066, William captured England in what is called the Norman invasion. He became known as William the Conqueror and tied the nobility of France with the nobility of England. Over the years, tensions grew over who had the right to rule either region.

**Years of Battle** Those tensions reached a crisis point in the early 1300s. England claimed territory in the southwest of France. France was supporting Scotland's fight against England. There was also debate about rights to sea travel in the English Channel. Fighting began when the king of France tried to take the territory claimed by England in southern France. The English king responded by claiming that he was the rightful king of France. In 1337, England attacked France.

The English had several victories. In 1428, the English attacked Orleans, one of France's last major strongholds. A French peasant girl known as **Joan of Arc** led the French to victory. By 1453, the French had driven the English from France and ended the war.

## History Makers

### Joan of Arc (c. 1412–1431)

Joan of Arc was born a peasant in Domrémy, France, around 1412. She was a devoted Catholic. When she was about 13, she believed that religious visions were urging her to fight the English during the Hundred Years' War. In 1429, she went to Charles, the French heir to the throne. Charles often prayed alone, but Joan knew what he said. Convinced her visions were divine, Charles made her a knight. In May 1429, Joan led the French to victory in the battle against the English at Orleans.

A year after the victory at Orleans, Joan was captured by allies of England. She was eventually executed in 1431. She became a national heroine in France and was declared a saint by the Catholic Church in 1920.



**New Weapons** New weapons changed warfare in Europe and around the world. A **longbow** shot arrows that could penetrate a knight's armor. Europeans also took advantage of new gunpowder weapons. Gunpowder technology came from China, but Europeans developed the technology into a major instrument of war. The longbow and gunpowder weapons could easily defeat knights. Over the next 300 years, the development of gunpowder weapons would greatly change the intensity and organization of warfare.

**REVIEW** What new weapons were used in the Hundred Years' War?

## Early Modern Europe Emerges

**3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION** How did social and political structures of Medieval Europe change?

For centuries, many European societies followed the feudal structure you learned about in Chapter 9. Over time, however, European feudalism broke down and signaled the end of the Middle Ages.

**Social and Political Structures** European trade and towns grew throughout the Middle Ages. People kept moving from the country to towns seeking their fortune. Towns required stability to make business and trade more reliable. Stronger monarchies could provide that stability. As a result, towns increasingly became centers of support for monarchies, and monarchies in turn expanded their power.

Monarchies gained even more strength after the Hundred Years' War. For example, the French monarchy no longer had to worry about an English claim to their throne. The French monarchy would eventually become the best example of an absolute monarchy under King Louis XIV (1643–1715). With guidance from skilled councilors, Louis would make France the most powerful nation in Europe.

Europe in Transition	
Medieval Europe	Early Modern Europe
weaker monarchies	stronger monarchies
powerful nobility	weaker nobility
mostly agricultural	rising importance of trade
common people loyal to local rulers	common people loyal to the king
knights were a fearsome weapon	gunpowder weapons make knights obsolete

**New Ideas** For many historians, the end of the Middle Ages began with the development of large nations that had powerful central governments run by kings. As the Middle Ages came to an end, scholars continued the study of classical texts begun by men such as Thomas Aquinas, whom you read about in Lesson 1. New ideas about learning, science, and art developed in Italian cities. The new ideas spread along European trade routes. This new era is called the Renaissance, and you will read more about it in Chapter 13.

**REVIEW** How did life change during the Middle Ages?

### Lesson Summary

- During the 14th century, the plague killed about one-third of Europe’s population.
- Deadlier weapons were developed during the Hundred Years’ War.
- The Hundred Years’ War helped weaken the social and political structures of feudalism.

### Why It Matters Now . . .

In today’s world, our health is still challenged by the spread of epidemic diseases, such as HIV/AIDS. Our security is also challenged by powerful new military technologies, such as nuclear weapons.



▲ **Hundred Years’ War**  
In this detail from a 15th-century painting, you can see some of the firearms that would change warfare forever.

## 3 Lesson Review

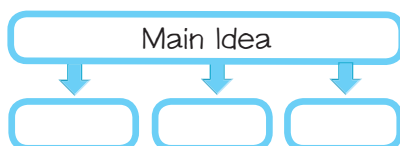
### Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of  
bubonic plague      Joan of Arc  
Hundred Years’ War      longbow

### Using Your Notes

**Finding Main Ideas** Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

2. What were the effects of the plague on European society? (7.6.7)



### Activity

**Internet Activity** Use the Internet to research Joan of Arc. Write a two-page biography that explains the central issues and problems she faced. (HI 1)

**INTERNET KEYWORD:** *Joan of Arc*



### Main Ideas

3. How were European Jews treated during the plague? (7.6.7)
4. What were two causes of the Hundred Years’ War? (7.6)
5. How did political structures change during the Middle Ages? (7.6)

### Critical Thinking

6. **Making Inferences** How might the longbow and gunpowder technology have changed what weapons were used on medieval battlefields? (7.6)
7. **Making Predictions** What result might a plague as devastating as the one in the mid-1300s have on North America today? (HI 2)