

**1388:** Town Public Health Law (law passed by Parliament).

Ordered people to remove any rubbish and dung from ditches and rivers if they threw it there. Anyone who refused would pay a £20 fine.

**1348:** The Black Death

People believed that **God** had sent the plague as punishment. Many people also believed that the movement of the **planets** caused disease.

People believed in **miasma** - this was the belief that disease was spread through bad smelling air.

Houses of victims were marked with a cross and the words 'Lord have mercy on us'.

**Industrial era:****The growth of cities**

From 1700 to 1900, there was big shift in people living in villages to moving into towns and cities for work. In 1801 a census was completed. The data from this shows the growth in city sizes and it can be compared with modern cities.

| City       | Population in 1801 | Population in 1901 | Population in 2011 |
|------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| London     | 959,000            | 6,339,500          | 9,787,426          |
| Manchester | 90,000             | 543,900            | 2,553,379          |
| Liverpool  | 80,000             | 702,200            | 864,122            |
| Birmingham | 74,000             | 522,200            | 1,085,810          |

Homes for factory workers were often built by the factory owners and were of poor quality. They were cramped and families often lived in the same room. Some even had to live in damp cellars. Sanitation was poor and disease was common. There were several cholera outbreaks in the 1800s due to poor quality water supply. A Public Health Act was passed in 1875, which set out standards for local authorities to improve water supply, sewage and said every town should appoint a medical officer.

**Middle Ages:** There were around 1,200 hospitals in England and Wales.

Hospitals were run by the church (mostly by monks or nuns) and the focus was on spiritual welfare instead of medical needs.

The church relied on prayer to cure disease.

The church supported the teachings of Galen – his theories were over 1000 years old and incorrect.

**1665:** The Great Plague

People **still** believed that **God** had sent the plague as punishment. Many people **still** believed that the movement of the **planets** caused disease.

People **still** believed in **miasma** - this was the belief that disease was spread through bad smelling air.

Actions of **the government:** ordered that all animals should be kept indoors or be killed, ordered people to sweep in front their houses to keep the streets clean, banned public gatherings, ordered fires to be lit to clean the air.

Houses of victims were **still** marked with a cross and the words 'Lord have mercy on us'.

## Key words and definitions

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Middle Ages</b>      | Time between the Romans leaving Britain and when the Tudors ruled.                   |
| <b>Plague</b>           | When a very infectious disease spreads very quickly because it is contagious.        |
| <b>Bubonic Plague</b>   | Type of plague called Bubonic because a symptom is buboes (painful swellings).       |
| <b>Pneumonic Plague</b> | Type of plague that affected the lungs. It was spread through coughing.              |
| <b>Industrial</b>       | Large scale companies/businesses that use factories for manufacture (making things). |
| <b>Vaccination</b>      | Treatment that gives someone immunity.   |
| <b>Immunity</b>         | Ability to resist a disease (not get ill).   |
| <b>Wound</b>            | An injury to the body.   |
| <b>Infection</b>        | Disease that invades the body, can be caused by bacteria or parasite.                |
| <b>Mortality</b>        | Relating to death, eg. Mortality rate = number of deaths.                            |