



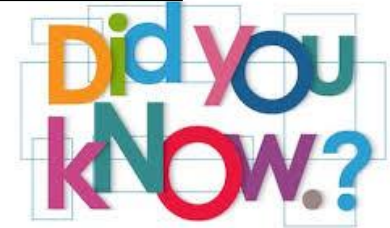
Pre..	Romans	Saxons	Vikings	Normans	Tudors	Stuart	Georgian	Victorians	Today
									
BC	43	450	793	1066	1485	1603	1714	1837	1939

Learning Challenge Question: How did the villagers of Eyam save the lives of so many in our county?

The Great Plague of London

In 1665, London was hit by a terrible disease known as The Great Plague and about 100,000 people had died from it. The **most common symptoms** included headaches, fever, vomiting, painful swellings on the neck, blisters and bruises. There was no cure for the plague – people just had to try and **stop it from spreading**. People suffering or showing symptoms of the plague had to isolate. **A large red cross** was nailed to the front door to warn others that those inside were infected. The plague spread rapidly and was responsible for destroying the population of a town or even a city within weeks. Some doctors believed that **bad poisonous air** was the cause of the plague, infecting anyone who breathed it. The cause of the plague was also blamed on livestock carrying the disease while others believed it to be a punishment from God. The real root of the problem was **RATS!** What people did not understand was that the plague was a disease found in **black rats**. Fleas would bite the rats and become infected and the **infected fleas** would then spread the disease to humans.

The plague arrived to the **DERBYSHIRE** village of **EYAM** in August 1665. It was brought from London in a parcel of cloth (ordered by the local tailor) which was infested with fleas. In order to stop the plague from spreading further, the villagers **ISOLATED**. No-one left Eyam and they relied on people from surrounding villages to bring in food supplies. The plague lasted for more than a year, killing 260 villagers which was about three quarters of the village.



The Boundary Stone

The Boundary stone was left on the outskirts of the village where people from other villagers left food and necessities for the villagers of Eyam. To pay for their goods, the villagers left their money in holes filled with vinegar so as not to pass on the plague.



The popular nursery rhyme is believed to have been sung by children describing the plague.

Ring o' ring o' roses
A pocket full of posies
A-tishoo A-tishoo
We all fall down

The plague doctor wore clothes to protect him from diseases spread through the air. He wore an ankle-length coat and a mask. The mask looked like a bird's beak. The beak was often filled with things which smelled sweet or strong - often lavender.



Key Vocabulary

plague	a contagious, bacterial disease
epidemic	a widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at a particular time
symptoms	a feature common to a particular disease
isolation	to remain alone and apart from others
boundary	a dividing line which marks the limit of an area
villagers	people who live in a village
tailor	a person who makes clothes
county	A specific region within a country

William Mompesson

William Mompesson was the vicar of Eyam during the outbreak of the Plague. When the plague broke out, William's wife, Catherine, wanted the whole family to leave Eyam. William tried to persuade her to leave the village with the children so that he could stay to help the villagers without worrying about his family. Catherine refused to go and stayed to help her husband. The children were sent to Yorkshire. In June 1666, William and Thomas Stanley decided that nobody should leave or enter Eyam. It was his decision that has made Eyam famous to this day.

