

bacteria

Microorganisms that can cause disease.

banquet

A huge, formal feast, often with extravagant food and entertainment.

Black Death

The name given to the bubonic plague that killed nearly half of the population of Europe and Asia during the 14th century.

Canterbury Tales

A famous collection of stories written by Geoffrey Chaucer that describe the journey of a group of people who travelled as pilgrims to Canterbury.

chivalry

The rules that knights lived by, that placed a high value on courage, kindness and honour.

contaminate

To make something poisonous or impure.

Flagellants

A group of people who thought the plague was a curse from God. They whipped themselves in public to show God that they were devout believers.

heraldry

A system that enabled knights to be identified on the battlefield by their coats of arms.

illuminated lettering

Important letters in early manuscripts that were enlarged, decorated and coloured.

infection

A disease caused by harmful microorganisms in a part of the body.

jousting

A sporting contest from the Middle Ages where knights would fight on horseback with lances.

knight

In the Middle Ages, a knight was a chivalrous man who held a special military rank and trained to fight as a soldier on horseback.

medieval

A term used when referring to the Middle Ages.

Middle Ages

A period in history lasting from the 5th to the 15th century.

monastery

A building in which monks lived together as a religious community.

peasant

A poor farm worker or tradesman who had a low social status and few rights.

pestilence

A very serious and infectious disease, such as the Black Death, that spreads quickly and is often fatal.

rodent

A type of small mammal with large, sharp front teeth, such as rats and squirrels.

serf

A medieval servant or labourer who was bound to obey and work on the land of a lord, and was treated as part of his property.

squire

During the Middle Ages, a squire was a young servant to a knight who hoped to become a knight himself.

symptom

A change that shows that a person is ill or becoming ill. For example, sneezing and a runny nose are symptoms of a cold.

timeline

A line showing a period of time on which important events and dates are marked.