During the Great Plague of London (1665-1666), the [disease](https://kids.kiddle.co/Disease) called the [Bubonic Plague](https://kids.kiddle.co/Bubonic_plague) killed about 100,000 people in. In just seven months, almost one quarter of London's [population](https://kids.kiddle.co/Population) (one out of every four Londoners) had died from the plague. At its worst, in September of 1665, the plague killed 7,165 people in just one week!

By July 1665, plague was in the city of London itself. Many of the people who could afford to leave the city, left for the [countryside](https://kids.kiddle.co/Rural_area). King [Charles II of England](https://kids.kiddle.co/Charles_II_of_England), his family, and his [court](https://kids.kiddle.co/Royal_court) left the city for [Oxfordshire](https://kids.kiddle.co/Oxfordshire). Most [wealthy](https://kids.kiddle.co/Money) [merchants](https://kids.kiddle.co/Merchant) and [professionals](https://kids.kiddle.co/Professional) also left, so most [businesses](https://kids.kiddle.co/Business) were closed. As the plague ravished the city, more and more people left. London became so empty that grass started to grow on the streets!

However, most of the city's [government](https://kids.kiddle.co/Government) officials stayed in London, including the [Lord Mayor of London](https://kids.kiddle.co/Lord_Mayor_of_London), Sir John Lawrence. A small number of [clergymen](https://kids.kiddle.co/Clergyman), [physicians](https://kids.kiddle.co/Physician) and apothecaries also chose to stay. People who were too poor to move to the countryside, had no choice but to stay in the city.

People in London tried many different ways to try to treat the plague and stop it from spreading. At the time, nobody understood what caused it, how it spread, or how to treat it. People were so afraid of catching the plague from each that they threw dead plague victims' [bodies](https://kids.kiddle.co/Carcass) in overcrowded pits and buried them all together, as quickly as possible. In one [parish](https://kids.kiddle.co/Parish) in London, 1,114 dead plague victims were buried together in a hole that was fifty feet long and twenty feet wide.

As the plague got worse, people became desperate. Some people refused to help sick family members whilst others forced sick [servants](https://kids.kiddle.co/Domestic_worker) to leave, even though they had nowhere to go. Eventually, if one person in a home got the plague, the whole family was forced to stay in the home. A red cross and the words "Lord have mercy upon us" would be painted on the door.

Though most of the people who died during the Great Plague lived in London, the plague also killed people in other areas of England. By the time the Great Plague ended, about 2.5% of England's population had died from the disease. To understand this statistic, about 2% of the entire [United Kingdom](https://kids.kiddle.co/United_Kingdom)'s population (including [soldiers](https://kids.kiddle.co/Soldier) and [civilians](https://kids.kiddle.co/Civilian)) died in [World War I](https://kids.kiddle.co/World_War_I), and about 1% of the entire United Kingdom's population died in [World War II](https://kids.kiddle.co/World_War_II), meaning that more people died from the Bubonic Plague of 1665 than during either of the world wars!

Task: Write your own information text about the Great Plague of 1665 – 1666.

There a few videos on YouTube that could watch. A good one that I found is the following. Just type in the title below and it will appear☺

The Great Plague of London (1665-1666)

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