

Chapter 5: The Late Middle Ages  
**THE BLACK DEATH & EUROPE**  
Comprehension and Analysis Exercise

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**Impact of the Black Death**

Please answer all questions on a separate piece of paper!

Section 1: Social Upheaval (p.161-167)

1. Define the 'Black Death'. What was it?
2. By what method did the Black Death spread amongst the population?
3. How did people know when they had developed the disease? What were the symptoms?

Section 2: Spread of the Black Death (p.150)

Look at the map called "Spread of the Black Death; 1346-1350" on p.163. Compare it to the map called "Major European Trade Routes" on p.150. Then....answer the following questions.

1. What geographic feature(s) do the locations of most of the major trading cities have in common? (p.150)
2. (Compare maps) Many historians believe that the plague spread along the trade routes. Do you agree or disagree? Give at least one reason for your belief.
3. Describe one route that the plague might have followed in it's spread across Europe, using geographic terms and city names to explain.

Section 3: Effects of the Black Death on Economics (p.164-167)

The Black Death had a great impact upon society. Stemming from the huge decline in population, there were huge changes in the prices of food, the labour supply, the level of wages paid to workers, and the willingness of peasants to put up with usual oppression and exploitation from the noble classes.

Using the chart provided on the back of this page, fill in the blank spaces in the chart using p.164-167 as a guide. Notice that some of the effects actually became causes of other situations....

# CAUSE

# EFFECT

**A)** The Black Death epidemic began.

**Effect:** One-third of all Europeans died.

**B)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Effect:** Workers were able to ask & receive higher wages.

**C)** Workers received a raise in wages.

**Effect:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**D)** Food supplies went down due to the Declining number of people farming.

**Effect:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**E)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Effect:** The peasants (serfs) organized an army and planned to stop rising taxes and unfair practices of the nobility.

## Final Summary:

In one short paragraph, summarize what life was like after the peasant revolts. What was life like in Europe now that the plague was over and feudalism had come to an end? Explain. 😊