

# Answers

1. Why were people so terrified of the plague?

**People were terrified of the plague, as there was no cure and that for many it meant certain death.**

2. Why might people have expected there to be a cure for the plague by 1665?

**People may have expected there to be a cure for the plague by 1665 because outbreaks of the plague had been common in Britain for centuries before this (the most devastating outbreak was the Black Death in 1348).**

3. a) Houses were sealed when somebody caught the plague. What do you think this means?

**This means that nobody inside the house was able to leave, and nobody from outside could enter the building.**

b) Why do you think this helped to stop the spread of the disease?

**The houses were sealed because there was no other way to stop the disease from spreading. By keeping those infected inside and unable to have contact with others, it was hoped the disease would stop being spread.**

4. How did killing cats and dogs cause the outbreak to spread further?

**Cats and dogs were predators of rats, so therefore there were less animals to kill the rats. This meant their population grew, so there were more rats to spread disease.**

5. What does the phrase 'medical knowledge was limited and it was not known how to cure many diseases' mean?

**This phrase means that in the seventeenth century, people did not know as much about illnesses, diseases and how to treat them as we do today. It also means that technology and research have moved on a great deal since that time, and we understand much more about how diseases spread and how to prevent and treat them.**

6. Why did the disease spread so quickly?

**There could be a number of answers, but answers referring to the unsanitary conditions and the cramped conditions of those living in parts of London.**

7. Why do you think the cold weather helped to stop the plague?

**Cold weather kills germs and bacteria, which means they cannot thrive and spread. Also, the cold weather killed many of the rats and fleas, who were the cause of the plague.**

8. What does 'alternative remedies' mean?

**This means that, as there was no medicinal cure, people tried to think of different things from their local areas and everyday lives that they could prevent themselves from getting ill.**

9. How must it have felt to be living in London at this time? Explain your answer using as much detail as possible, and remember to use evidence from the text.

**Various answers, but answers must refer to the sense of fear and the unknown. Also the sadness and despair at seeing so many people falling victim to the plague. Some answers may discuss how doctors must have felt helpless and frustrated that there was so little they could do to help people.**