Playing History

The Plague

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

© 2014 Serious Games Interactive ApS. All Rights Reserved

© seriousgames.net

CONTENT

Game Manual **3**
Movement 3
Menus 3
Save game 3
Using the collected objects 3
Chrono Goggles 3
Assignment 1 **5**
Multiple choice test 5
Assignment 2 **7**
Part 1 **7**
Topic: The Middle Ages, medicine and science 7
Assignment 3 **10**
Part 2 **10**
Topic: Society and Church 10
Assignment 4 **13**
Part 3 **13**
Topic: Desperation and escape 13
Assignment 5 **15**
What happened, and why? 15
Assignment 6 **18**
Draw and explain. 18

© seriousgames.net

GAME MANUAL

Below is a systematic description of how Playing History works and how to complete the game.

Movement

You control the game character with the mouse. By clicking on objects in the game, you can pick them up or examine them. In some mini-games, you need to use the keyboard too.

Jump and Run

Click on the place you want to move to. If you double-click, you will start running.

Menus

You access the game menu by pressing ESC or clicking the scoreboard. Here you can check out your game achieve- ments. You can also adjust the sound and graphic settings.

Save game

You can save your game from the game menu.

Using the collected objects

Click on the bag in the top right corner. You can now see your available items.To use an object, click it. You now hold the object in your hand for use in the game. If you would like a short description of the object, hover the mouse pointer over the object. You can also combine individual objects such as a pitchfork and a pile of hay. This is how a haystack is assembled: Select the pitchfork from the bag, and click on the hay to gather hay for a haystack.

Chrono Goggles

Your Chrono Goggles are in the bag once you have received them. Select them and use them on your eyes. For a brief roment, your surroundings take on a greenish glow. In this mode, you can use things from other time periods in the game.

© seriousgames.net

This is your score

This is your health - make sure it doesn´t get too low or you might catch the Plague

To pick up items or to talk - click on an item or a person

To open your inventory, click on your bag.

To use an item, click on it. The object is now in your hands, and you can use it in the world.

The quest bar displays what your next objective is.

To move around, click on the ground. Double-click to run.

The game is about The Plague also known as the Black Death, a nasty disease that came to the city of Florence in Italy in the year of 1348.

You play a young boy called Marchione, who lives in Florence and is the son of one of the best barbers and surgeons in town.

Recently, your mother has fallen ill. You fear the worst - perhaps it is the plague. If it is, she may not have much time left to live.

But there is hope: In the plague-ridden city, you can find out all about the disease. Then maybe the family can escape the plague and certain death.

BUT BEWARE - DANGERS LURKS IN EVERY STREET!!

© seriousgames.net

ASSIGNMENT 1

Multiple choice test

1. **What is plague?**
- O *A contagious, deadly disease*
- O *A city in Italy named after a Pope.*
- O *A game people played in the middle Ages.*

2. **How can you tell if a person is infected by the plague?**
- O *The person loses his hair and teeth.*
- O *The person becomes angry, irritable and loses his appetite.*
- O *The person suffers from high fever, fatigue, muscle pain and vomiting.*

3. **What is the theory of cardinal fluids?**
- O *That there must be no more than four different fluids in the body.*
- O *That the fluids of the body must be balanced.*
- O *That you must drain the body of fluids if you are ill.*

4. **Why did doctors perform bloodletting with leeches?**
- O *To rid the patient of excess blood.*
- O *To relieve the pain of the patient.*
- O *For the leeches to drain the patient of the disease*

5. **How is plague transmitted?**
- O *By a person with plague coughing near you or touching you.*
- O *By the food you eat.*
- O *By fleas living on rats or humans.*

6. **Why did the prices at the market place go up?**
- O *Because the king barred the peasants from entering the city.*
- O *Because there were not many people left to produce the goods.*
- O *Because all the goods were sold to markets in Asia.*

7. **Why did many people lose faith in the Church?**
- O *Because the priests could not do anything to prevent the plague.*
- O *Because the Pope died.*
- O *Because people became more wealthy and lived longer.*

8. **What was the theory of the flagellants?**
- O *It was possible to beat the plague bacterium out of the body.*
- O *Rats were the devil's animals and had to be whipped to death.*
- O *God would save you, if you punished yourself and were meek.*

9. **Who were accused of being responsible for the plague?**
- O *Jews*
- O *Arabs*
- O *Homosexuals*

10. What was the best thing to do to avoid becoming infected with plague?
- *To pray to God.*
- *To flee from the city.*
- *To put on a mask for protection.*

11. What was the Church's explanation of the plague?
- *The Church felt the flagellants were right.*
- *The Church said it was the Jews who were the cause of the plague.*
- *The Church had no good explanation.*

12. How can plague be cured nowadays?
- *Ice can cure the plague by freezing the swellings.*
- *With modern medicine (antibiotics).*
- *By staying in bed and relaxing.*

13. How did the plague arrive in Europe?
- *It came with trade ships from Asia.*
- *It originated in Europe.*
- *It arrived with nomads from Africa.*

14. What is Marchione's father's profession apart from cutting people's hair?
- *He buries the dead.*
- *He is a peasant.*
- *He is also a kind of doctor.*

15. What is a beccamorto?
- *A kind of lasagne.*
- *The name of an Italian king.*
- *Someone who buries the dead.*

16. When did the plague arrive in Europe?
- *In 1412*
- *In 1348*
- *In 1536*

17. How did plague doctors attempt to protect themselves from being *infected?*
- *They wore a mask with fragrant flowers and did not touch the dead.*
- *They took antibiotics before visiting patients.*
- *They tried to look like birds and wore black clothes.*

18. When did the plague end in Europe?
- *In the middle of the 1500s*
- *By the end of the 1800s*
- *In the early 1700s*

19. Where did the Pope live in 1348?
- *Rome*
- *Avignon*
- *Florence*

© seriousgames.net

ASSIGNMENT 2

When you have played the first part of the game focusing on life in the Middle Ages, knowledge of medicine and science, you should be ready to start working on the questions below.

PART 1

Topic: The Middle Ages, medicine and science

Fact: The most common form of the disease was the bubonic plague, which probably also gave the pandemic its nickname "the Black Death".

1. **Describe Marchione's father.**

2. **What is Marchione's father's job?**

3. **Describe Marchione's mother.**

4. **What is wrong with her?**

Fact: There are many more or less educated guesses concerning how many people died during the Black Death. The death toll varies greatly depending on which region of Europe is taken into account. One estimation is that approximately a third of the population of Europe perished during the years of the Black Death.

5. What does Mario the Beccamorto tell you about himself and his work?

6. What does Mario tell you about the Black Death?

Fact: Nobody suspected the rats or fleas, but almost everything else presumed to be the cause of the disease including the positioning of celestial bodies, the wrath of God, the Jews or witchcraft.

7. What is the idea behind using leeches to cure the noblewoman Dona Anjelica Pacelli?

8. What do you think about this treatment?

© seriousgames.net

Fact: The plague bacterium, Yersinia Pestis, was discovered in 1894 by Alexander Yersin during a plague epidemic in Hong Kong.

9. Describe Mr. Arnetto (the doctor)

10. Retell what Mr. Arnetto says about the plague.

11. Mention three diseases that are a problem today.

12. Describe how to treat the diseases you have mentioned.

© seriousgames.net

ASSIGNMENT 3

When you have played the next part focusing on society and the Church, you should be ready to start answering the questions below.

PART 2

Topic: Society and Church

Fact: The Church's official explanation was that the plague was a divine punishment of humankind.

1. How do you think Mario makes so much money?

2. What do you think about Mario's line of work?

3. Buying rosemary from the market is very expensive - why is that, do you think?

4. What do you use the rosemary for?

© seriousgames.net

Fact: Priests suggested prayer and penance as protection against the disease to appease the wrath of God. This approach did not work – on the contrary, many priests died from the disease themselves – and the traditional Church was left with no protection against the Black Death.

5. Describe the beggar and describe how he has lost his hand.

6. What do you think about the way the beggar was punished?

7. Give examples of how crime is punished today.

8. Describe Herman, the man you meet in front of the church.

9. Why do Herman and his friends whip themselves?

© seriousgames.net

Fact: The flagellant movement consisted not of trained priests but of laymen, who wandered from town to town. Along the way they tortured themselves by whipping themselves until the blood ran as penance for the sins of humankind.

10. What do you think about Herman and his ideas?

11. In the game, the church is empty and the priest is desperate. What do you think is the reason why people do not go to church?

12. Why do you think some people believe in God when others do not?

13. Why do you think people believed more strongly in God in the old days?

© seriousgames.net

ASSIGNMENT 4

When you have completed the entire game, you will have a good understanding of how to escape the plague, and you can start working on the next set of questions.

PART 3

Topic: Desperation and escape

Fact: Non-Christians were also a target for aggressive flagellants. The largest group of non-Christians in Europe was the Jews, who often became targets of the flagellants.

1. Describe the guard's behavior when you meet him.?

2. Why does the guard accuse you of being the cause of the plague?

3. What is the purpose of escaping from the city?

4. Describe Marchione's uncle

© seriousgames.net

Fact: In practical terms, Europe was facing a huge problem: a critical amount of Europe's workers had succumbed to the plague, particularly in the big cities where

5. Do you think the family will survive after they have fled to the countryside?

6. What should the family do to avoid being infected with the plague?

7. What can the family do to have a better chance of survival?

8. What other reasons do people have for fleeing?

9. Do you know anyone who has fled from somewhere? Describe why they have fled.

10. Imagine that your family had to flee from where you live. What would you miss the most?

© seriousgames.net

ASSIGNMENT 5

What happened, and why?

In this assignment you will work with what you have experienced in the game, what happened, and why. You will also work with explaining the consequences of the arrival of the plague in Europe.

1. Retell the plot of the game in your own words. What happened and what did you do?

2. Which person, do you like best in the game? Explain why.

3. Describe the mood of the city of the game.

© seriousgames.net

4. Describe five things from the game that were different back then compared to today?

5. List five things that surprised you in the game.

6. Today we know many things that were not known in 1348. Can you give three examples?

7. What misconceptions do people in the game have about the plague?

© seriousgames.net

8. The game gives a certain view of how life was in Florence in 1348. How do you think the game differs from what life was really like back then?

9. The plague soon spread across Europe killing millions of people. In some towns more than half the residents died. Explain how you think it affected life in the cities that were struck by the plague.

10. How might survivors benefit from the plague?.

11. After having ravaged Europe for more than 300 years, the plague died out in the 1700s. Find out why the plague died out.

12. Compare plague to one of these two diseases: HIV (AIDS) or cancer. What are the similarities and differences are there? Think about the time-period when the plague occurred. How did that affect the spread of disease?

© seriousgames.net

ASSIGNMENT 6

Draw and explain.

Draw arrows between the pictures and describe the role that they had.

© 2014 SERIOUS GAMES INTERACTIVE APS
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED