



## Ye Olde Disease Detectives

1. How did people in the past think they could protect themselves from the plague?

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2. What began being used to treat infections in the 1920s, and who discovered it?

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3. What is antibiotic resistance, why is it a problem and what are scientists working on to try to overcome it?

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4. In the podcast, we learned about the causes and effects of various historical diseases. Complete the cause-and-effect chart by filling in the effects (in detail) for each cause listed below.

CAUSE	EFFECT
Lack of Vitamin C on long voyages.	
Belief in miasmas during the plague.	
Discovery of penicillin.	
Vaccination campaigns for smallpox.	

5. Look at the image on the right, which shows an etching of a Plague Doctor's outfit made in Rome in the 1600s . Examine the Plague Doctor's outfit. Describe three features of the Plague Doctor's outfit. What do these features suggest about how people in the 1600s viewed and tried to protect themselves from the plague (Black Death)?



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6. Compare the Plague Doctor's outfit to modern-day protective gear used by doctors and nurses (like masks, gloves, and hazmat suits). Write a few sentences about how the old and new protective gear are similar and different.

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7. We now know that scurvy is caused by a lack of Vitamin C, but this wasn't discovered until 1747. It is believed that millions of sailors died from the disease before that. The disease would take hold after two months at sea and seem miraculously cured after a few weeks on land.

Talk to a friend about the theories sailors might have had about the cause of scurvy before Vitamin C was discovered. Why do you think they experimented with burying people up to their necks in dirt to ward off the disease?

If you have time, find out more about scurvy and how Vitamin C was found to cure it.