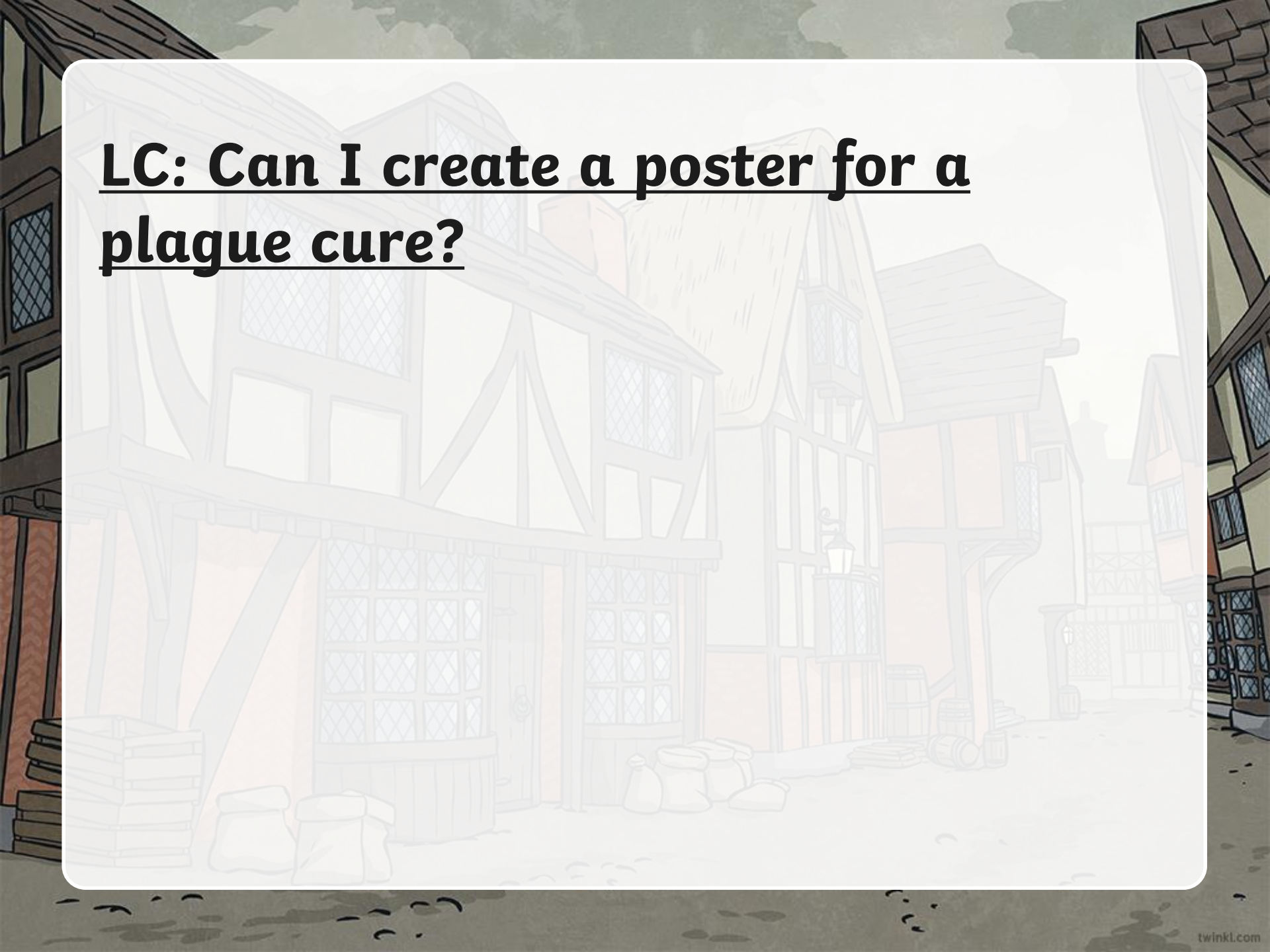


LC: Can I create a poster for a plague cure?



What Was the Great Plague?



Approximately 350 years ago, a terrible disease spread across parts of Europe.



It was called the Great Plague.



There had been plague in England for centuries.



However, one of the worst years was 1665, when London was badly affected.

What Happened During the Plague?

People were terrified of the plague as there was no known cure.

Whole communities were wiped out.

The plague began in an area called St. Giles-in-the-Field, an area of London which was fairly poor and overcrowded.

The plague spread very quickly and people died within days of becoming infected.

They suffered pain, fevers and infected swellings on their bodies.



Plague victims



What Happened During the Plague?

By the end of 1665, 100 000 people had died in London.

When a household became infected the house was sealed which meant nobody could leave or enter the building. They then left the building for forty days until the people inside had either died or recovered.

Any houses where there was plague, were marked with a red cross on the front door, along with the words 'Lord have mercy on us'.



How Did the Plague Spread?

We now know that the plague was spread by infected fleas that were carried by rats. London was full of rats because:

- There were no sewers to carry away waste from sewers
- Lots of people lived in small houses in crowded streets
- There were many horses and farm animals coming in and out of the city.

However, at the time people did not know this and instead most doctors believed it was caused by dirty air.



How did Rats Spread the Plague?

Rats carried bacteria and also had fleas.

The fleas passed on the bacteria to people by biting them.

Humans infected each other by coughing and sneezing.

This caused the plague to spread extremely quickly.

There were lots and lots of rats in all towns and cities during this time, especially in London.





Plague Doctors

These 'doctors' did not actually have proper medical training.

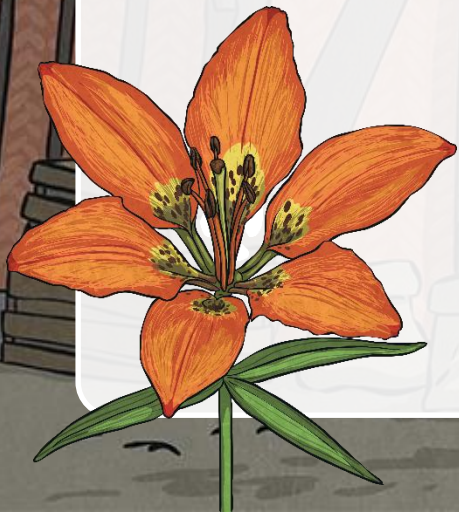
They wore large cloaks to protect their skin.

Their 'beak' was filled with flowers to stop them from breathing the bad smells which they thought caused plague

How Did People Try to Avoid the Plague?

As there was no known cure, many people tried alternative ways to avoid being infected or to cure themselves.

Look at the sheet on your table to see some of the 'medicines' that were believed (wrongly) to stop the plague.



Suggested Preventions and Cures

How they were supposed to work

What they actually did

Carry Flowers or wear a strong perfume	The smells would help to ward away the disease	Nothing
Drink hot drinks	The victim would then sweat out the disease	Nothing
Carry a lucky charm	The charm would ward off the disease	Nothing
Use leeches to bleed the victim	This would remove infected blood	Nothing
Smoke a pipe of tobacco	The smoke would ward off the disease	Nothing
Give a strong dose of laxatives	This would cause the victim to completely empty his bowels, thus removing the disease.	Strong doses of laxatives can cause death from dehydration.
Coat the victims with mercury and place them in the oven.	The combination of mercury and heat from the oven would kill off the disease.	This could actually increase the likelihood of death - mercury is poisonous and the heat from the oven caused serious burns.



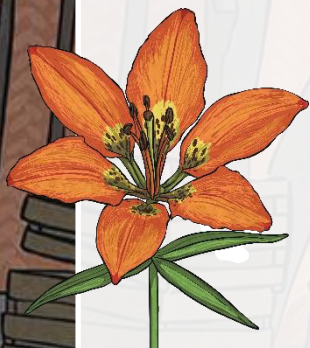
Create a poster

Take one of the plague cures that are on your table.

Create a poster to advertise it

Remember the features of persuasive writing:

- Rhetorical questions
- Commands
- Exaggeration
- Phrases to make you think everyone is doing this



Stop Plague before it stops you!

Do you want to protect yourself from the Plague?
Then buy yourself some plague-preventing posies!



We all know that plague is caused by poisonous air, so only the powerful smell of flowers can stop it. Carry these flowers in your pocket, sniff them regularly and they will keep the deadly smells away. You'll be able to walk through London safely!

Beat the Plague with powerful posies!

Title as a command

Rhetorical question? Describe your product



*What do we all 'know' about plague?
Give instructions about how to use the product.*

*Make an exaggerated promise about how it will work.
Remind people that this product can save their life*

Ring a Ring o'Roses

The rhyme ring a ring o'roses is sometimes sung by children

It is actually a rhyme about the Great Plague!

Children hold hands and dance round in a circle, singing the rhyme and then all fall down at the end.

Ring o'roses – refers to the red spots which affected people who had the plague.

pocket full of posies – refers to the small bunches of flowers people thought might prevent them from being infected with the plague.

atishoo, atishoo – this refers to the sneezing which affected people, especially as the illness got worse.

we all fall down – this refers to the death of those affected.



How Did the Plague End?

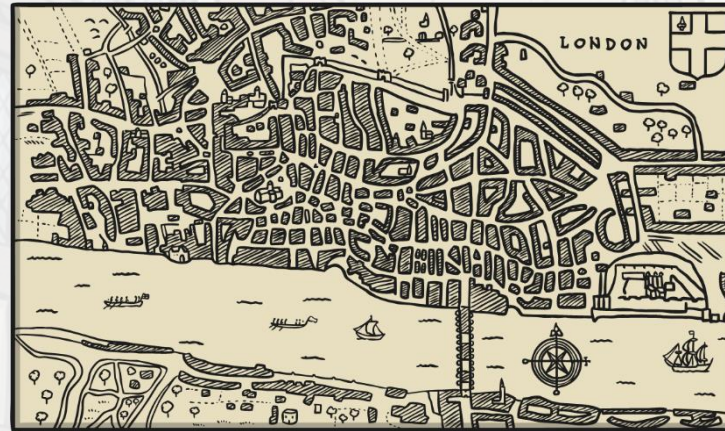
The Great Plague in London lasted until the Autumn of 1666. A very cold spell of weather killed off the fleas and bacteria.

This stopped the plague spreading.

Also in 1666, the Great Fire of London destroyed many of the rat-infested buildings. This stopped the spread of the plague.



The Great Fire of London



The fire broke out at a bakery in Pudding Lane on 2nd September, 1666.

It lasted four days and burned down 13 000 homes.

It was so big that it was called the Great Fire of London.

The reason so many buildings were destroyed was that they were built very close together.

They were also mainly built of wood.



twinkl