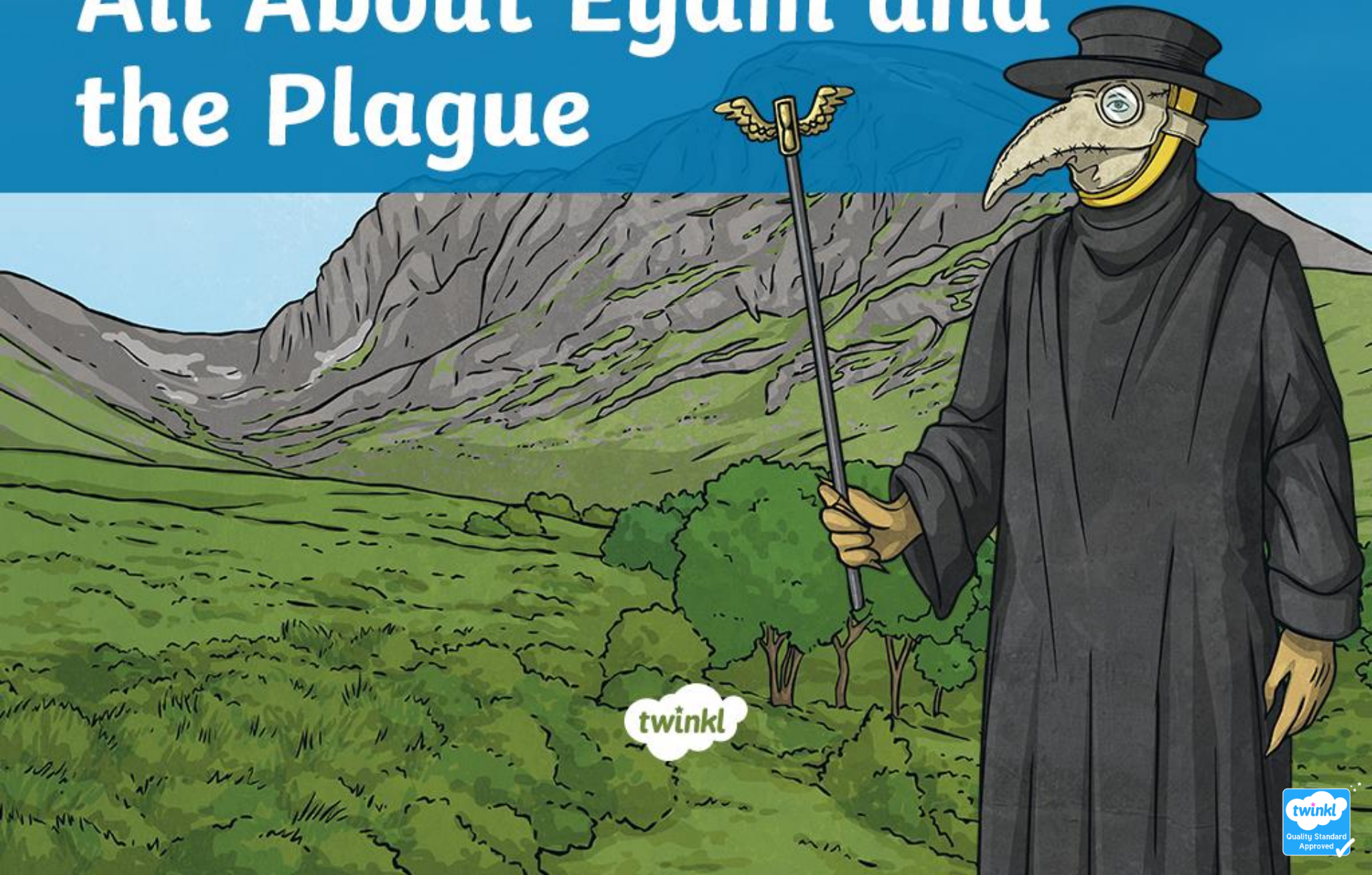


# All About Eyam and the Plague



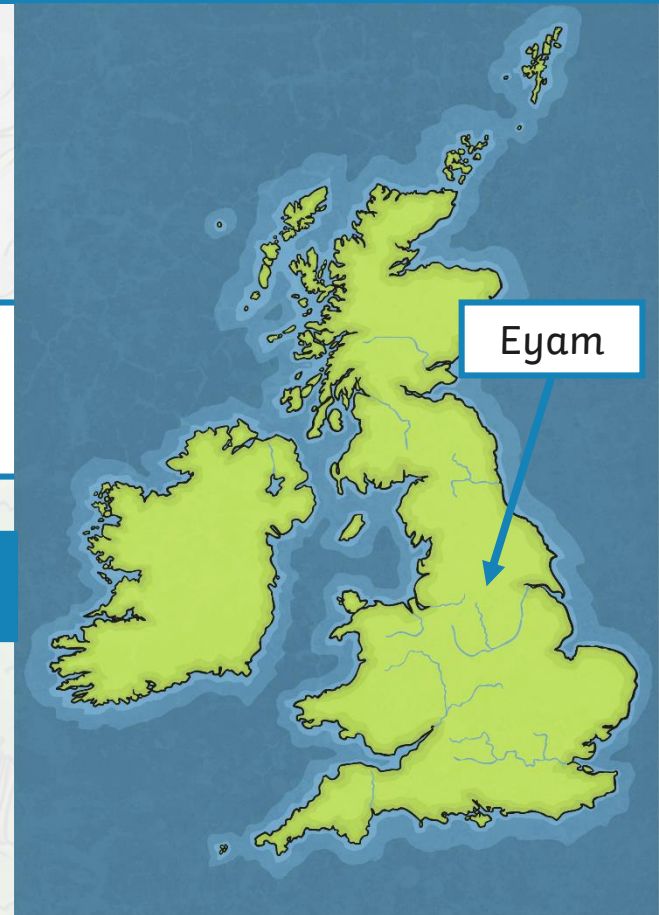
# Where Is Eyam?

Eyam (pronounced 'eem') is a village in the Peak District National Park. The Peak District is mostly in the county of Derbyshire. Eyam has a population of around 1000 people.

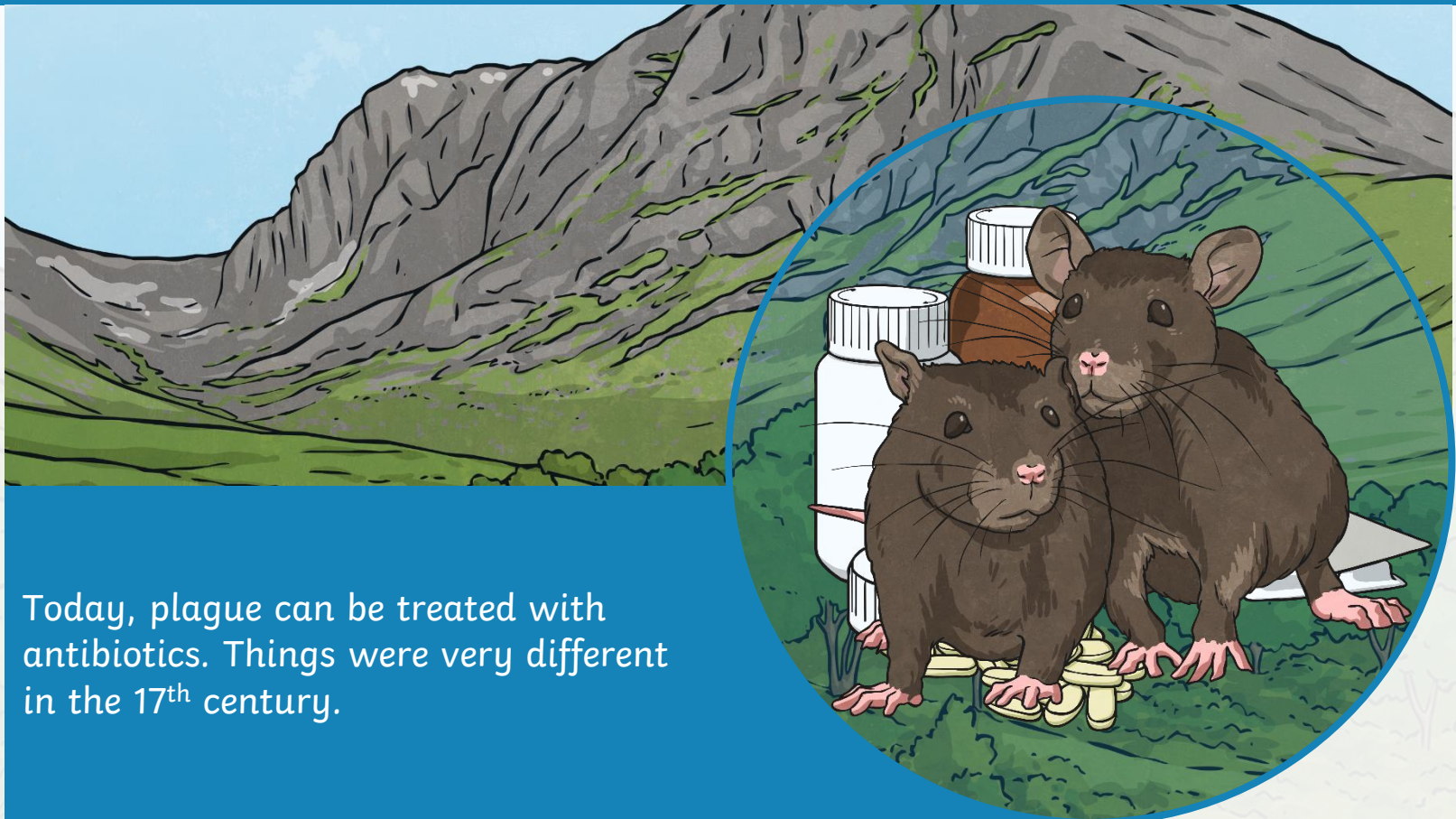
In 1665, the village was devastated by an outbreak of the plague.

What county do you live in?

Talk About It



# What Is the Plague?



Today, plague can be treated with antibiotics. Things were very different in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

# The 17<sup>th</sup> Century in Britain

The 17<sup>th</sup> century had been a time of great turmoil in Britain. In the 1640s and 1650s, England had a [civil war](#). It ended with the King Charles I being beheaded and the country becoming a [Republic](#). In 1660, Charles II (Charles I's son) became king.

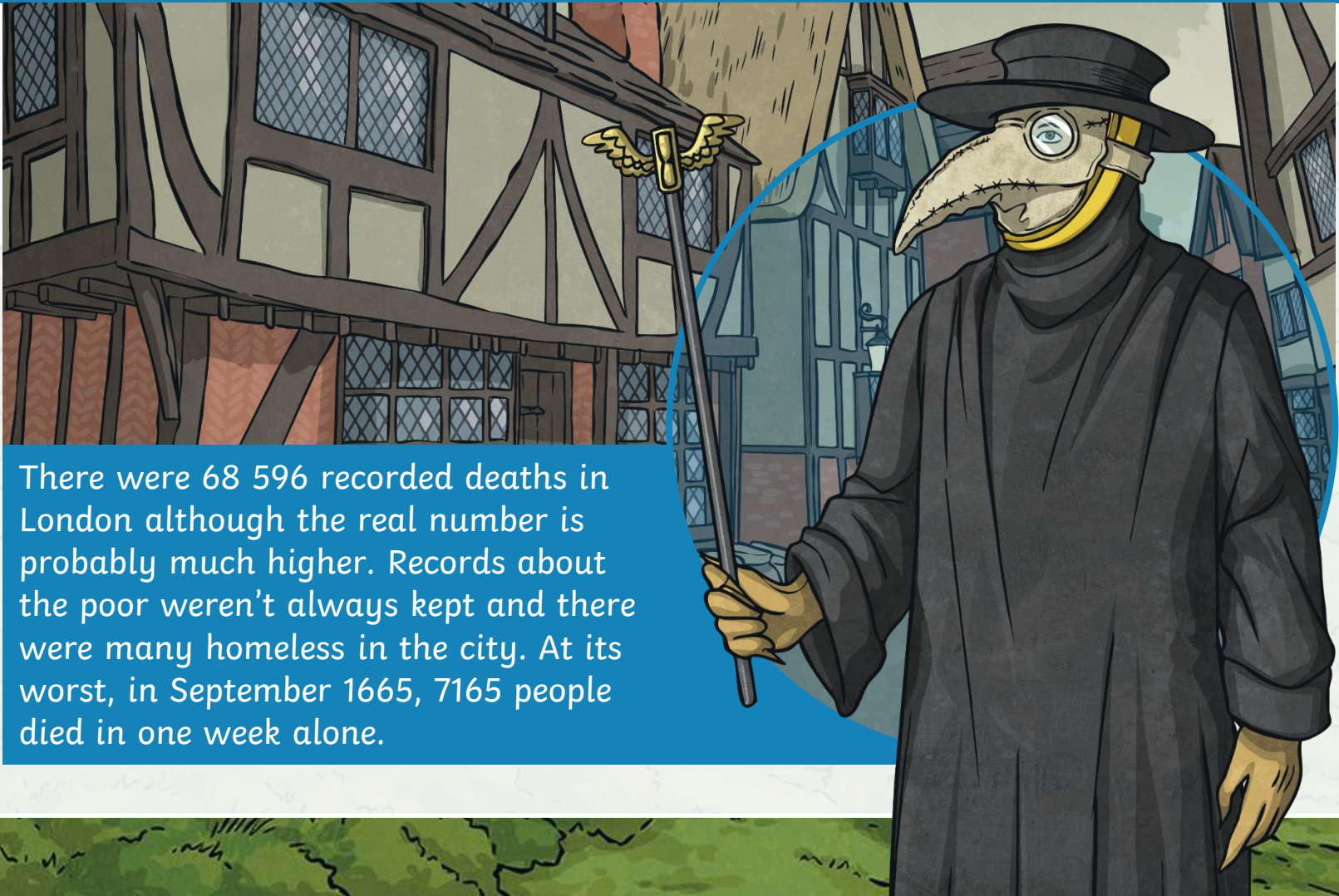


Charles I



Charles II

# The Outbreak of the Plague, 1665



There were 68 596 recorded deaths in London although the real number is probably much higher. Records about the poor weren't always kept and there were many homeless in the city. At its worst, in September 1665, 7165 people died in one week alone.

# How Did the Plague Reach Eyam?

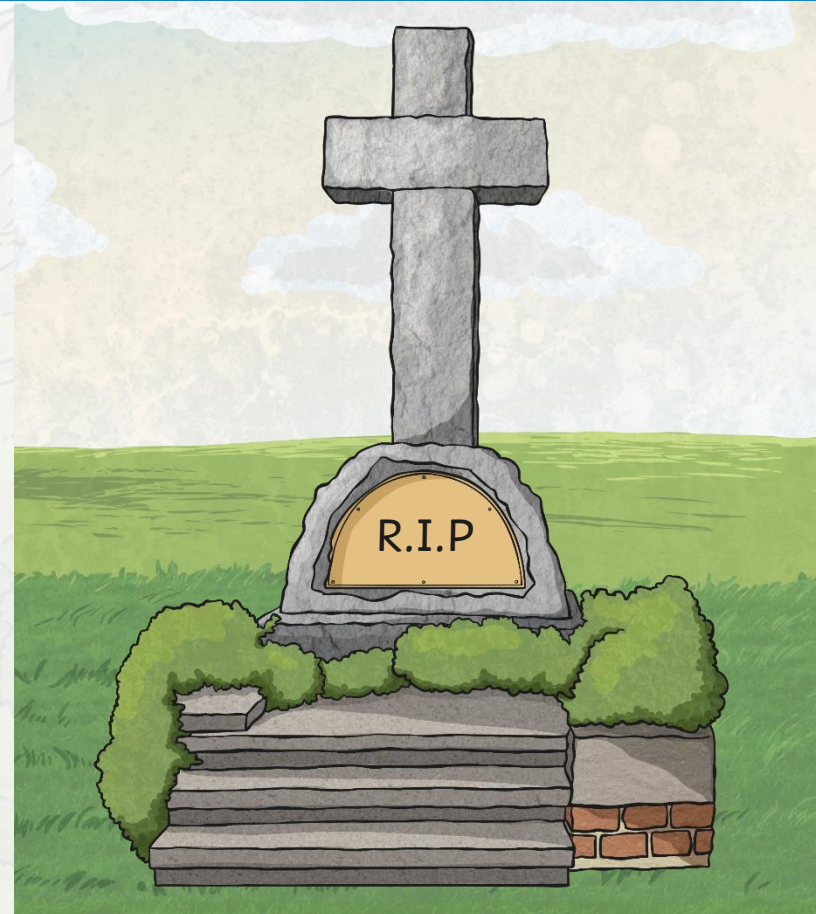
## Talk about it

How do you think the plague reached Eyam? The two places are around 250km apart. In 1665, the only forms of transport were walking and horses (either riding a horse or being in a horse-drawn carriage).



# How Did the Plague Reach Eyam?

The plague continued to spread through the village and between September and December, 42 villagers died. The population of the entire village at the time was only around 350. By spring 1666, with more people dying, many villagers had decided to flee Eyam in order to escape the plague.

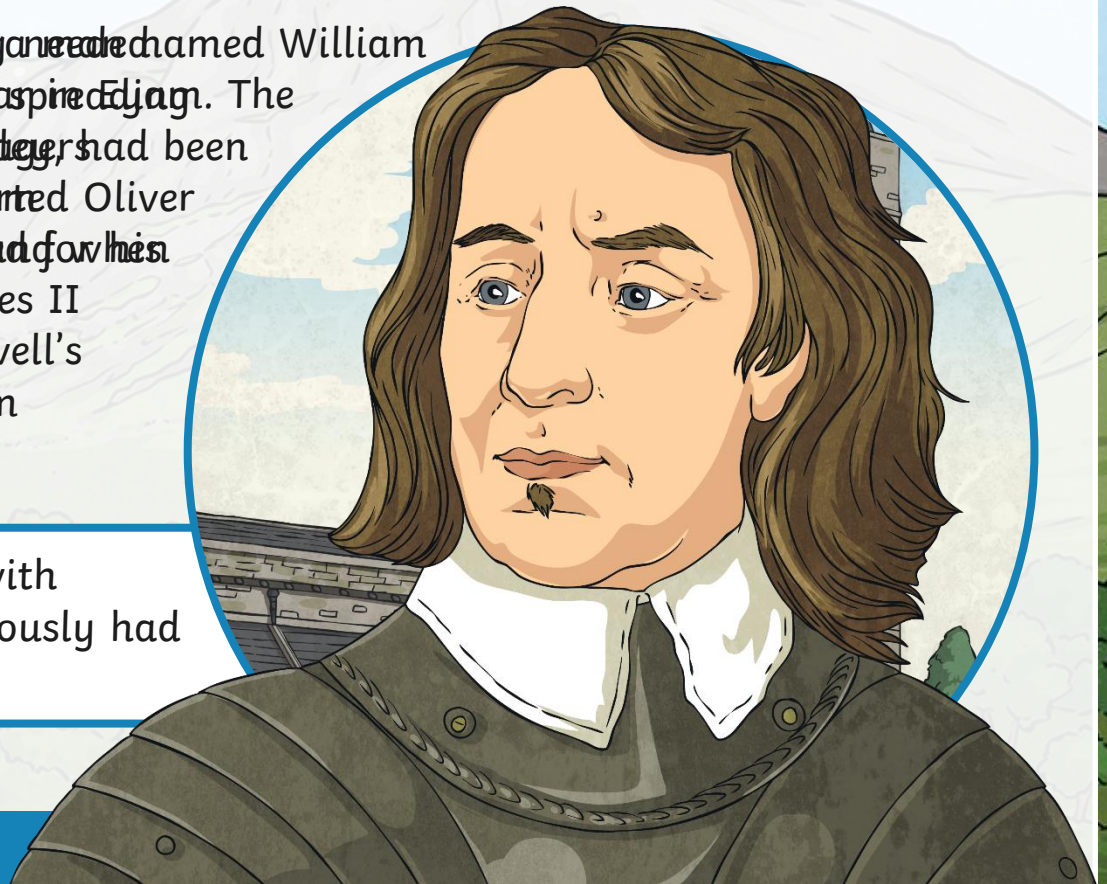


# How Was the Plague Controlled?

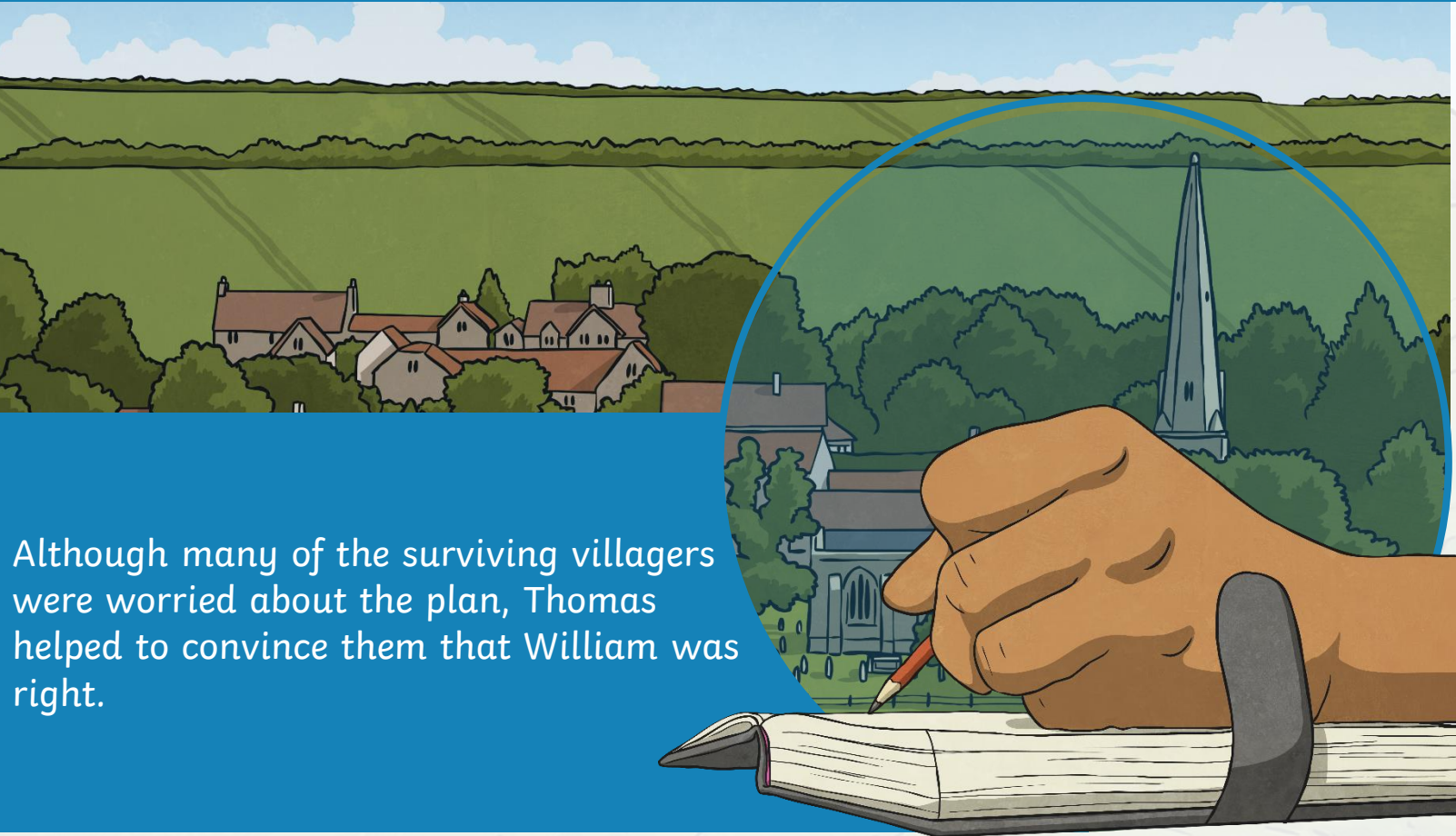
William knew that a long time ago, a man named William More passed on the plague as a pirate. The previous winter, the soldiers had been sick with the disease. William ordered Oliver Cromwell to let the leaders of England go. When Charles II became king, many of Cromwell's supporters were removed from positions of power.

Have you ever had to work with someone who you have previously had a disagreement with?

Talk About It



# How Was the Plague Controlled?



Although many of the surviving villagers were worried about the plan, Thomas helped to convince them that William was right.

# Quarantine

Other villages supplied Eyam with food. They would bring supplies to the entrance of the village and leave them there, avoiding contact with the visitors.

Despite all these measures, people in Eyam continued to die from the plague. During August 1666, people died at a rate of five a day. William Mompessan's wife, Catherine, died during this month.



# The End of the Plague

During September and October, the number of deaths slowed down and by 1<sup>st</sup> November, the disease was gone.

It is thought that the quarantine saved thousands of lives from outside the village as it stopped the plague from spreading.

In 1669, William left Eyam to lead a church in a village in Nottinghamshire. At first, the people in the village were worried he might be carrying a disease and made him sleep in a hut!



# Eyam Today

Today, Eyam is a popular tourist destination. It has a post office, a primary school, shops and a craft centre. Eyam also has a museum where you can find out more about the village, including the story of the plague. There are many sites connected to the plague including Catherine Mompesson's gravestone and 'plague stones' which marked the start of the quarantined area.

On the last Sunday in August, the Plague Memorial Service takes place. A procession walks from the Church to Cucklet Delf, the field where church services were held during the plague.



# Glossary

**Civil war** – A war between groups from the same country is called a civil war.

**Quarantined** – This is where a group of people are separated from the general public and have to stay in one place, not having contact with anyone else.

**Rector** – The leader of a church is known as a rector.

**Republic** – A republic is a country ruled by elected people rather than a king or queen.

**Tailor** – This is someone who makes clothes.





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