


# Life and Times of the Elizabethan Age





# The Class System

- Much like in our society today, the Elizabethan Age separated into 3 basic classes:
    1. Upper class
    2. Middle class
    3. Lower class
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# The Upper Class

- This class was made up of:
  1. Royalty
  2. Nobles (usually land owners and members of the royal court.)
- This was a very large class of people.



# The Middle Class



- Smallest group of the three classes.
- This group consisted mainly of:
  1. Doctors
  2. Lawyers
  3. Shop Owners

# The Lower Class

- On average, the largest of the 3 classes.
- This group consisted of:
  1. Unskilled laborers
  2. Peasants
  3. Pickpockets



# A terrible illness broke out in the Elizabethan Age


And it is commonly referred to  
as...

# THE PLAGUE!!!





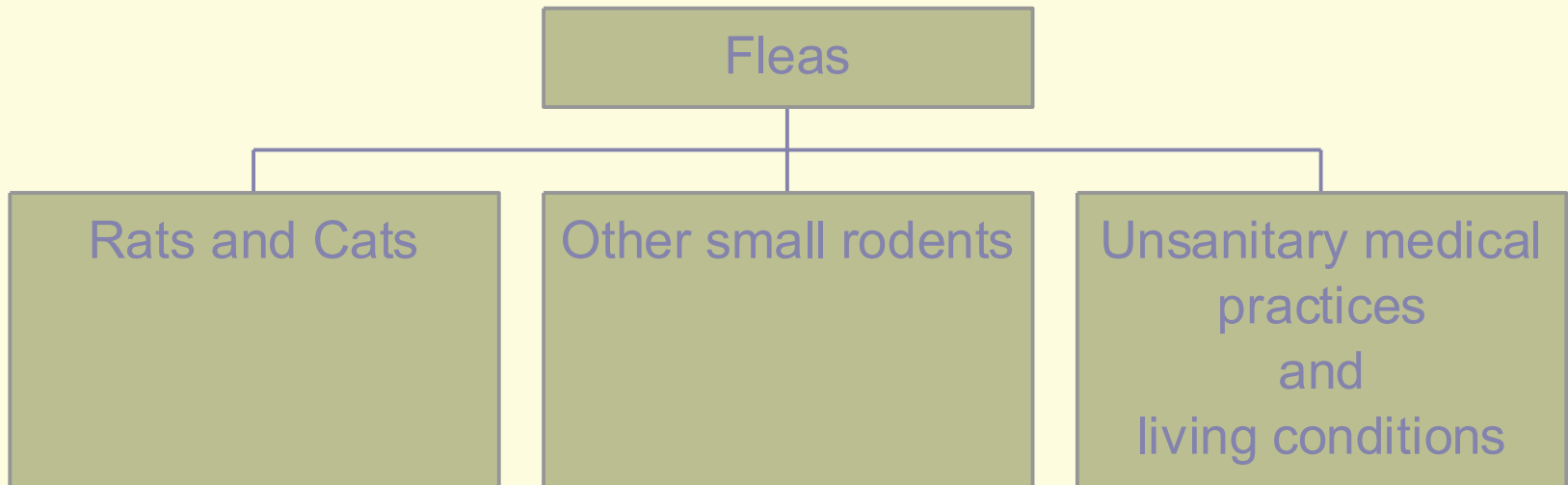
# Impact of the plague

- The plague had been around for hundreds of years.
  - This outbreak of disease is responsible for killing over 50,000 people in England and Ireland alone.
  - During the plague Theatres and other public meeting places (like pubs) were shut down because the plague spread easier amongst groups of people.
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# Causes of the Plague

## Spreading the Disease



# Sheer ignorance



- Elizabethans believed that the fous smells of the sick and the dead spread the disease.

# Other contributing factors to The Plague

- There was a fear of bathing
- Sugar was used as a toothpaste
- Human and animal toilet waste was thrown into the street
- Doctors didn't wash hands or instruments




Wrote a song about the  
plague...

...and it goes something like this.



# The Plague inspired the nursery rhyme *Ring Around the Rosy*

- *Ring around the rosy* represents a round red rash that would break out on the skin
  - *A pocket full of posies* represents filling the pockets of the sick and the dying to mask the foul odor.
  - *Ashes, ashes (or atishoo, atishoo)* represents the burning of victims' bodies or sneezing that came with the illness.
  - *We all fall down* represents a person dying from the plague.
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There was one other threat to  
the Elizabethan lifestyle...

THE PURITANS!

# The Puritan Philosophy



- They believed Theatre was evil and immoral
- Wanted all Theatres closed permanently.
- Forced all playhouses outside the city limits.