Black Plague Map Activity

You will trace the path of the Black Death through Europe by locating these cities and looking for patterns. In this exercise see what you can learn about the source, spread, and extent of the disease.

The Black Death is first reported in Messina, Italy, on the island of Sicily, in October 1347, and then moves through Europe. Below are the likely dates of the arrival of the Black Death in a variety of cities.

- Messina, Italy – October 1347
- Venice, Italy -- January 1348
- Genoa, Italy -- January 1348
- Pisa, Italy -- February 1348
- Marseilles, France -- February 1348
- Rome, Italy -- March 1348
- Avignon, France – March 1348
- Valencia, Spain -- May, 1348
- Paris, France -- June, 1348
- London, England -- June 1349
- Liege, Belgium -- June 1349
- Hamburg, Germany -- June 1350

Instructions: On the map color in all city names as listed below
1. Color all cities and key Purple where the plague hit in 1347
2. Color all cities and key Red where the plague hit in 1348
3. Color all cities and key Green where the plague hit in 1349
4. Color all cities and key Brown where the plague hit in 1350

Once you have completed the map, answer these questions:

1. What date and in what city did the plague start in Europe? ____________________

2. Referencing the colors, in what year did the plague spread the most? _________

3. What patterns do you see in the map?

4. List some reasons why you think it took a whole year for the plague to get from Paris to London and Liege?
Fill in this map using the directions on the previous page. Don’t forget to color the Key.

The maps below show the spread of the Black Plague by year.