



## PEEPS VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Rats and the Black Death: Two Things You Don't Want to Catch

1. In medieval times rats lived near humans because there was plenty of trash laying around in the streets. Why do you think rats still choose to live by humans, despite the fact that we have significantly cleaner habits now?
2. Compared to today's standards Medieval medicine practice was barbaric and uncanny. Do you believe today's modern medicine will one day be looked back on with the same kind of repulsiveness? Why or why not?
3. Miasma theory, Divine Intervention, and Prejudice theory are all ways Medieval people believed the plague was spreading. What are some other bizarre theories you could imagine to explain the spreading of diseases?
4. It is still possible to catch the plague in today's modern world. What other old diseases are still possible to catch? Why?

*STEM Read and SmartSpace@NIU are part of Northern Illinois University's STEAM Works Initiative.*

