

Student 2: High Merit
NZQA Intended for teacher use only

**Research proposal:**

The event I have chosen to study is the Black Death. The Black Death took place in the 14th century, approximately 1347-1350. The Black Death spread across Asia and throughout Europe so rapidly, making it the most devastating pandemic in history. I plan to focus on why the Black Death was so catastrophic in Europe and also the impact the Black Death had on society in Europe socially and economically.

Even though New Zealand was not personally affected by the Black Death, we as a country suffered greatly from a pandemic much like the Black Death. This is why I have chosen to also research the 1918 flu epidemic. In particular, to what extent did the repercussions of a pandemic impact on New Zealand Society? I feel it is important to study New Zealand history as it played such a major role in shaping our country.

**Focusing questions:**

1. Why was the Black Death so catastrophic in Europe during the 14<sup>th</sup> century?
2. What impact did the Black Death have on society in Europe, socially and economically?
3. To what extent did the repercussions of a pandemic impact on New Zealand society?

**Examples of identifying possible sources:**

Outbreak Plagues That Changed History, 2005. Bryan Barnard. From this book I can find information on all of my focus questions: why was the Black Death so catastrophic in Europe? What impact did the Black Death have on society in Europe socially and economically? and To what extent did the Black Death prepare New Zealand for the 1918 flu pandemic? I expect to find information not only on the Black Death, but the Flu Pandemic as well. I also expect to find out about the background of both the Black Death and the 1918 Flu Pandemic.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsCkgX2epFw> - Primary and secondary source. Video documentary of the 14th century Black Death, along with accounts of witnesses from that time. From this source I can get some in depth information about the Black Death and also possibly personal accounts from witnesses and their diary entries. This documentary should give me some information on why the Black Death was so catastrophic and also the social and economic effects on [European society...

**Examples of annotations:**

<p>FQ3: To what extent did the repercussions of a pandemic impact on NZ Society?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Various waves of the flu pandemic</li> <li>- Impact on outside world (in particular NZ)</li> <li>- First <u>recorded</u> incidence of the Spanish flu</li> </ul> <p>Reliability: I am highly likely to use this source to help me to answer my third focus</p>	<p>FQ3: To what extent did the repercussions of a pandemic impact on NZ Society?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Authority to close places that will spread disease</li> <li>- Officially declared as a dangerous infectious disease</li> </ul> <p>Reliability: This source is 100% reliable. This source is a newspaper article from the New Zealand gazette. It is a national document</p>
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<p>question. This source provides me with very relevant and in depth information, statistics and dates that will help me to answer my 3.2 report in great depth. I am unsure of the reliability of this book, as books are not always wrong/right.</p>	<p>therefore is very reliable. I am going to use the gazette as a top source as it is a way to show precautions that were taken.</p>
<p>FQ2: What impact did the Black Death have on society in Europe socially and economically?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drastic change in religion</li> <li>- Influence on arts...</li> </ul> <p>Reliability: I do not feel that this source is very reliable. This is a person's blog/essay. I am uncertain of the accuracy and reliability of the author's knowledge/information therefore I do not know how reliable this source will be to answer my second focus question. It's highly likely to be biased towards the author's opinion. Therefore I am uncertain whether to use the source.</p>	<p>FQ3: To what extent did the repercussions of a pandemic impact on NZ Society?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Story from her grandfather about life during the flu epidemic</li> <li>- Walking with onions to cure disease</li> <li>- Body collectors</li> </ul> <p>Reliability: This interview gave me an insight into the stories told through the generations. Even though the stories may change during time due to being altered/forgotten it still provides a semi-reliable source to understand the devastation/life during the flu epidemic.</p>

**Evaluation:**

Usefulness of information sources: The information that I gathered was useful in answering all of my focus questions. In particular there was very comprehensive and in depth information available to answer my second focus question. Through my research using various sources, I found that certain sources worked better at answering my focus questions than others. Books primarily answered Focus Question 1 and 3; Internet answered predominantly Focus question 2 and Images/Visual seemed to offer a lot of information on Focus Question 3. This may have to do with the time period in which my focus questions were set and the nature in which they were written. Also it could have been to do with the fact that Focus Question 1 and 2 required in depth analytical response that could not be provided by simply stating answers, through images. Books tend to delve into further discussion and expand further than the surface of facts and figures; this is why this source was useful in answering Focus Question 1 and 3. I also found that books became a very dominant source of mine, as I feel they are personally more reliable than other sources, and therefore I used them more. *Outbreaks Plagues That Changed History*. Eryn Barnard. 2005. Crown Publishers, was one the main books I used. It provided insightful information on not only the Black Death but the Flu Pandemic as well. I found the information to be very reliable and very useful and therefore one of my top sources, as explained in my annotations. Focus Question 3 focused on the repercussions of a pandemic on New Zealand Society. Images were a way to show the extent the repercussions had on society; this is why images were a key source to answer Focus Question 3. Images provided great visuals to physically see the damage caused by and pandemic. By choosing the 1918 flu pandemic to answer my third Focus Questions, it allowed me to easily access images and photos from that time period, as it was not that long ago. Images can be a very reliable source, and hence why I used them...