WHY DID PLAGUE KEEP RETURNING TO EUROPE FOR CENTURIES AFTER THE BLACK DEATH?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A new study of 26 ancient plague genomes from 11 European archaeological sites shows that plague repeatedly returned after the Black Death of 1347 to 1353. Researchers linked genetic evidence to outbreaks between 1349 and 1710, including epidemics connected with the Thirty Years' War and the Great Northern War. The study suggests that armies, refugees and traders helped spread the disease, while improved dating methods have made it easier to connect remains with specific historical outbreaks.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

This gives students a more accurate picture of the Black Death as part of a much longer history of recurring epidemics. It also connects disease, warfare, migration, trade and scientific evidence, making it useful for lessons on medieval and early modern Europe.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

"How might wars and the movement of people have helped plague spread across Europe?"

Source: University of Tartu

https://genomics.ut.ee/en/news/sharper-picture-pandemic-new-study-uncovers-complex-history-plague-after-black-death