## Crises of the 14th Century ER Name:

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| **Little Ice Age and its Consequences** |
| **Little Ice Age**: Around 1300, the global temperatures began to drop. The Little Ice Age is not a major change. The global temperature only changed by a couple degrees.However, its effect was devastating. Farming systems failed all throughout the world in the 1300s. In Europe, the Little Ice Age ruined feudalism, which already had problems before the Little Ice Age. | **When did the ice age begin?****How much did worldwide temp drop during the Little Ice Age?****How did the Little Ice Age affect the world?** |
| **The Great Famine 1315-1317:** Three bad harvest years in a row starting in 1315 created the worst *famine* in all of European history. (A famine is when a society doesn’t have enough food to feed everyone).Millions died from starvation. People turned to crime to feed their families. Some sold their families into slavery to feed themselves. Some simply ate their families.Feudalism proved entirely incapable of fixing these problems. | **What started the Great Famine?****How did the famine affect Europe?** |
| **Peasant Revolts:** Peasant life had always been bad. But despite how bad it was, peasants rarely revolted before the Little Ice Age.During the Little Ice Age, peasant revolts became a common part of life. For example, in Germany there are 5 recorded peasant revolts from 1000-1300 and 60 from 1300-1550.Most of these revolts were unsuccessful but the constant and repeated threat of peasant violence helped to soften conditions on peasants and led to a general weakening of Feudalism. Peasants got a greater share of the wealth and the system changed to be more resilient to famine. | **What impact did the Little Ice Age have on peasant revolts?****How did the revolts change Europe?** |
| **The Black Death** |
| You’ve already read about the black death but as a reminder: it was a horrible disease that killed at least a third of Europe, maybe two thirds. To the very religious people of Medieval Europe, it was seen as the end of the world and shook society to an enormous degree. | **Summarize the Black Death:** |
| **Effects on Economy:** the Black Death killed a lot of peasants. The result was that, when it was over, there weren’t that many peasants left. This meant that the average peasant was much more valuable as an economic asset. So they were paid more, they were given more land to work, they saw their lives improve dramatically. Combined with the Little Ice Age, the Black Death made feudalism impossible and eventually it ended almost everywhere in Europe. | **How did the Black Death affect the economy of Europe?** |
| **Effects on Religion:** most medieval Europeans believed that all events were caused by God. Therefore the Black Death was created by God. People saw this as a sign that God disapproved of something in their society. All of Europe looked to the Catholic Church at this time for answers but the church proved powerless in the face of the plague. After the plague, many viewed the church with growing suspicion and doubt, leading to a general weakening of its grip on culture. This mood eventually caused the Reformation, during which many rejected the church entirely. | **In the eyes of a medieval person, what caused the Black Death?****Why did the Black Death make people question the church?** |