## Effects of the Black Death ER Name:

You will read several excerpts. For each, answer the questions that follow.

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| **Excerpt** | **Questions** |
| **China:** The Black Death originated in China—as did all 3 waves of *Yersinia Pestis*. We think about 25-30% of China’s population was killed by the plague. | **Summarize** |
| **Middle East:** The Black Death struck the Middle East extremely hard. In Egypt it resulted in the deaths of about 50% of the population. It also saw a collapse in the irrigation system, setting farming back for at least 2 centuries | **Summarize** |
| **India:** From what we know of the world in 1300, it seems like India should have experienced the black death. However, there are zero first-hand accounts of the Black Death in India until the 1600s. Furthermore, it seems as if India’s population actually increased in the 14th century.  | **Does it sound like India experienced the Black Death?** |

More on back

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| **Effects on Europe** |
| **Death Toll:** The death toll of the Black Plague is huge. Reports are that anywhere from 30-60% of Europe died during the plague. The main wave of the Black Death was 1346-1353 but the Plague would continue to appear in Europe until the 18th century. Without antibiotics, the disease is extremely deadly. Worse still, medieval treatments did nothing to stop the plague. | **Summarize** |
| **Questioning the Church:** for centuries, the Catholic Church had ruled over European culture. When the church proved helpless against the Plague, it shook the faith of many. In the wake of the plague, we see a huge growth of movements that challenge church authority.  | **Why did the Black Death make people question the church?** |
| **Ending Feudalism:** Europe had been operating in the Feudal system—in which local lords and knights rule over peasants who have almost no rights. The Feudal system was inefficient and oppressive and concentrated wealth in the hands of the wealthy. Massive death tolls almost wiped out the feudal system and it disappeared in most parts of Europe by 1500. | **How did the Black Death kill feudalism?** |
| **Increasing Wages:** weirdly, the farmers who lived through the Black Death saw their lives greatly improved. Huge depopulation saw the value of their labor increase and a peasant in 1400 probably made about 5x what a peasant in 1300 made. Land also became cheaper since no one was around to buy it. | **What improvements did Peasants see in their lives?** |