

Analyzing Historical Maps

Afroeurasian Trades Routes in the 14th Century.



Route of the Bubonic Plague, also called the Black Death, a disease that resulted in the deaths of up to ½ of Europe's population in the 14th century.



- 1 The horse-riding Mongols likely carried infected fleas and rats in their food supplies as they swooped into China.
- 2 The disease came with merchants along the trade routes of Asia to southern Asia, southwest Asia, and Africa.
- 3 In 1345–46, a Mongol army besieged Kaffa. A year later, Italian merchants returned to Italy, unknowingly bringing the plague with them.

1. Compare the two maps and the patterns of movement shown on each. What do you notice?
2. Looking at the two maps together, how do you think the Black Death spread?
3. Looking at the maps, where might the Black Death have started?
4. What might be one consequence of increased trade and increased human interactions?