

# THINK ALOUD READING



Carefully read the article and begin to engage with the text. Consider each question as part of the **TURN AND TALK** to share your ideas after each question is discussed.

**1 Prediction.** What do you think Gravity is? How would you define it?

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**2 Clarify.** Who is Sir Isaac Newton?

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**3 Clarify.** What is Gravity?

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**4 Clarify.** Why do humans remain on the ground of the Earth?

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## WHAT IS GRAVITY?

You may have seen pictures of astronauts. They float around in space. They fly in a space shuttle. Have you ever wondered why they float? Your feet stay firmly on the ground. Why don't theirs? When you drop something, why does it fall?

The answer to these questions is something called gravity. It affects everything we do. Many years ago, a man named Sir Isaac Newton wondered about gravity, too. He watched and tested the way things move and fall on Earth. He wrote his ideas down. Scientists today use a lot of his ideas.

Those ideas are now considered laws of science. Gravity is a force that makes all objects attracted to each other. The bigger the object is, the more it attracts things. Since nothing on Earth is bigger than planet Earth itself, all the things and people on Earth are attracted by Earth. Everything is pulled toward the centre of the planet. That is why things fall to the ground. It is also why people and things stay on the ground instead of floating around in space. Earth is even large enough to attract our moon. That's why we can see it in our sky!

**5 Clarify.** Why are we able to see the moon here on Earth?

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**6** What image would you draw to **summarise** the force of gravity?

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**7 Question.** Why do you think there is no gravity in space? Carefully consider what you have just read.

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Carefully read the article and begin to engage with the text. Consider each question as part of the **TURN AND TALK** to share your ideas after each question is discussed.

**1 Clarify.** What was the black death?

**2 Clarify.** When did the plague arrive in Europe?

**3 Summarise** what people were greeted with on the docks.

**4 Clarify.** Where do Historians think the plague began?

## THE BLACK DEATH

The Black Death is another name for the bubonic plague. The plague was a dreadful illness that spread across Asia and Europe in the mid-1300s. People who caught the disease normally died within a week.

The plague arrived in Europe in October 1347, when 12 ships from the black sea docked at the Sicilian port of Messina. People who gathered on the docks were met with a horrifying surprise: most sailors aboard the ships were dead, and those still alive were gravely ill and covered in black boils that oozed blood and pus. Sicilian authorities hastily ordered the fleet of "death ships" out of the harbour, but it was too late: over the next five years, the Black Death would kill more than 20 million people in Europe – almost one-third of the continent's population.



Even before the "death ships" pulled into port at Messina (Italy), many Europeans had heard rumours about a "Great Pestilence" (plague) that was carving a deadly path across the trade routes of the Near and Far East. Indeed, in the early 1340s, the disease had struck China, India, Persia, Syria and Egypt. Historians think the plague began in Central Asia, possibly in China, and spread throughout China, India, the Middle East, and then Europe. The disease travelled from Central Asia to the Black Sea along the Silk Road (the main trade route between Asia and the Mediterranean Sea). It probably was carried to Italy on a ship. It then spread north and west, throughout the continent of Europe and to England.



There were three types of plagues, the Bubonic plague, pneumonic plague (this attacked the lungs. Victims died quickly, in one or two days) and the septicaemic Plague (this infected the blood). The Bubonic plague was the most common at the time. It often caused large swellings as the body fought the disease. To catch this type of plague you had to be bitten by a flea that had already bitten a black rat. The fleas would suck blood from the black rats and then suck the blood from humans, which transferred over the germs, and bacteria that caused the plague.

**5 Clarify.** What was the Bubonic plague? What did it do to the body?

**6 Summarise** the other two types of plagues.

**7 Question.** What comparisons can be drawn between the Black Death and Covid?