The **Black Death** reached Italy during the spring of 1348 causing deaths like never before recorded in history. Within three years, close to 50% of Europe’s population had died.



Three forms of the Black Death

* Bubonic
	+ Swellings on the neck, armpits, groin
		- Sized from an egg to an apple
	+ Spread by fleas on rats to humans
	+ Life expectancy up to a week
* Pneumonic
	+ Attacked the respiratory system
	+ Spread by breathing the air of an infected person
	+ Life expectancy of one or two days
* Septicemic
	+ Attacked the blood system
	+ Spread by bite from infected rodent or insect OR from open wounds OR cough from infected person
	+ Life expectancy of 24 hours

Signs of inevitable death

* In the East, blood gushed from the orifices of the face – nose, eyes, ears, pores
* In Europe, the swellings/tumors changed to black or purple spots spread all over the body