



London Population - 1300s

London was a cramped place in the 1300s when the plague struck. Population estimates of London before the plague vary from 50,000 to 100,000.

Estimate how many people there were per square meter in London by using the following procedure:

1. Rule a rectangle on the above map by connecting the four circles.
2. Measure up each side of the rectangle and work out how many meters it actually represents: 1 cm = 250 meters.
3. Calculate the square meter size of London by multiplying the length of the rectangle by its width.
4. Divide the total figure by 50,000.
5. The figure you end up with is called population density. That's how many people lived in London per square meter. Would you want to have that many people around you? But it's even worse than a lack of personal space. There was also no plumbing to take away sewerage and no running water to bathe.

How might population density contribute to the plague spreading?