

# CONTAGION!

## Purpose





You will play a trading game in this activity that will help you learn about some specific events that occurred during this era, which will help make this topic more concrete.

## Process

In this activity, you will first play a card trading game, and you will then be asked to create an infographic that relates to the game's outcome.

### Part 1

As you come into the room, your teacher will hand you a 5x7 card that will tell you if you are going to play the role of a peasant, a merchant, or a nobleman or -woman in this game. Then, your teacher will give you each some playing cards. The goal of the game is to gather more of one card suit than anyone else. The suit you must collect depends on the role you're playing. Each card is worth one point. Here is the key to determining which suit each role should collect:

Role	What to Obtain	Card Suit
Peasant	Food	
Merchant	Money	
Nobleperson	Status	
All	Happiness	

You can decide how you want to make trades. There is only one rule to the game: Every time you trade with someone, you have to write that person's name down on your 5x7 card.

Once everyone has their cards and is ready, you will have 5 minutes to trade. Your teacher will tell you when the time is up, and will explain what to do next.

### Part 2

Now that you know the game is actually about pandemics and not just trading, you are going to think about how dangerous pandemics really are to humanity. There are some scientists, such as Amesh Adalja from Johns Hopkins University, who believe that pandemics are one of the greatest threats to our species. They think pandemics are more likely to destroy humanity than the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, more than the threat of nuclear war, or even cyberwar. It is your job to do some research on the history and spread of pandemics and to create an infographic that displays this history. Then, you'll decide if you agree that pandemics are the greatest threat to humanity.

Get into small groups to start working on your infographic. Note that your infographics must include information about at least four pandemics, and one of those them must be the Black Death. The infographic should also include information about the causal relationships between the pandemics and three of

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the AP themes. More specifically, show how pandemics may have impacted each of your chosen themes, and conversely, how those themes impacted the spread of pandemics.

As you create your infographic, pay attention to the following:

- Topic – Make sure the topic—*pandemics*—is somehow defined or explained through visuals.
- Type – The type of infographic chosen (for example, timeline or informational) should strongly support the content being presented.
- Objects – The objects included in the infographic should be relevant and support the topic.
- Data visualizations – The data visualizations must present accurate data and be easy to understand.
- Style – Fonts, colors, and organization should be aesthetically pleasing, appropriate to the content, and enhance the viewer's understanding of the information presented.
- Citations – Full citations for all sources must be included.

Take some time to research some past pandemics and gather the information for your infographic. Once you've designed and constructed your infographic, be prepared to display it. You and your classmates will take part in a gallery walk so you can get more familiar with the information shared on each. As you view each of the infographics, write down three pieces of evidence that either support or challenge the argument that a pandemic is the greatest threat to our society today. You'll either share your findings with the class or hand them to your teacher.