

plague - definition of plague by The Free Dictionary

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/plague>

plague

Also found in: [Medical](#), [Legal](#), [Idioms](#), [Encyclopedia](#), [Wikipedia](#).

plague (plāg)

n.

1.
 - a. A highly infectious, usually fatal, epidemic disease; a pestilence.
 - b. A virulent, infectious disease that is caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis* (syn. *Pasteurella pestis*) and is transmitted primarily by the bite of fleas from an infected rodent, especially a rat. In humans it occurs in bubonic form, marked by lymph node enlargement, and in pneumonic form, marked by infection of the lungs, and can progress to septicemia.
2.
 - a. A widespread affliction or calamity seen as divine retribution.
 - b. An influx or large number of destructive or unwanted things, especially animals: *"The vines flourished, the only problem being a plague of jackrabbits" (Paul Lukacs).*
 - c. Something that causes persistent hardship, trouble, or annoyance: *"The plague of every funnyman's success is that deep down, almost everyone thinks they know forty guys funnier" (Ross Vachon).*

tr.v. **plagued**, **plagu-ing**, **plagues**

1. To pester or annoy persistently or incessantly. See Synonyms at [harass](#).
2.
 - a. To cause suffering or hardship for: *"Runaway inflation further plagued the wage- or salary-earner" (Edwin O. Reischauer).*
 - b. To be a widespread or continuous problem or defect in: *Confusing jargon plagues the entire subject.*

[Middle English *p1age*, *blow*, *calamity*, *plague*, from Late Latin *p1āga*, from Latin, *blow*, *wound*; see [plāk-](#) in [Indo-European roots](#). *V.*, Middle English *p1aghen*, from Middle Dutch, from *p1aghe*, *plague*, from Late Latin *p1āga*.]

plagu'er *n.*

American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2011 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

plague (pleɪg)

n

1. (Pathology) any widespread and usually highly contagious disease with a high fatality rate
2. (Pathology) an infectious disease of rodents, esp rats, transmitted to man by the bite of the rat flea (*Xenopsylla cheopis*)
3. (Pathology) See [bubonic plague](#)
4. something that afflicts or harasses
5. an annoyance or nuisance
6. (Bible) a pestilence, affliction, or calamity on a large scale, esp when regarded as sent by God
7. used to express annoyance, disgust, etc: *a plague on you.*

vb (tr) , **plagues**, **plagu-ing** or **plagued**

- 8. to afflict or harass
- 9. to bring down a plague upon
- 10. to annoy

[C14: from Late Latin *plāga* pestilence, from Latin: a blow; related to Greek *plēgē* a stroke, Latin *plangere* to strike]

'plaguer *n*

Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003

plague (pleɪg)

n., *v.* **plagued**, **pla•guing**. *n.*

- 1. an epidemic disease that causes high mortality; pestilence.
- 2. an infectious, epidemic disease caused by a bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*, characterized by fever, chills, and prostration, transmitted to humans from rats by means of the bites of fleas. Compare **bubonic plague**.
- 3. any widespread affliction, calamity, or evil.
- 4. any cause of trouble, annoyance, or vexation.

v.t.

- 5. to trouble, annoy, or torment in any manner.
- 6. to smite with a plague or pestilence.
- 7. to cause an epidemic in or among.
- 8. to afflict with any evil.

[1350–1400; Middle English *plage* < Late Latin *plāga* pestilence, Latin: stripe, wound]

pla'guer, *n.*

syn: See **bother**.

Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved.

plague (plāg)

- 1. Any highly infectious, usually fatal epidemic disease.
- 2. An often fatal disease caused by a bacterium transmitted to humans usually by fleas that have bitten infected rats or other rodents. The most common form of plague is bubonic plague, though plague can also exist as a highly contagious form infecting the lungs and as an extremely severe form infecting the blood.

The American Heritage® Dictionary of Student Science, Second Edition. Copyright © 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

Plague a group which, by their size, number, or nature, cause devastation or irritation.

Examples: plague of confessors, 1604; of gnats, 1847; of hail, 1382; of infidels, 1596; of locusts, 1774; of brass money, 1855; of rain and water, 1548; of fell (foul) tempest, 1513.

Dictionary of Collective Nouns and Group Terms. Copyright 2008 The Gale Group, Inc. All rights reserved.

plague

Past participle: plagued

Gerund: plaguing

Imperative ▾

Imperative

plague

plague

Collins English Verb Tables © HarperCollins Publishers 2011

Thesaurus

Legend: ≡ Synonyms ↔ Related Words ≠ Antonyms

Noun 1. plague - a serious (sometimes fatal) infection of rodents caused by *Yersinia pestis* and accidentally transmitted to humans by the bite of a flea that has bitten an infected animal

≡ **pest, pestilence, pestis**

↔ **epidemic disease** - any infectious disease that develops and spreads rapidly to many people

↔ **bubonic plague, glandular plague, pestis bubonica** - the most common form of the plague in humans; characterized by chills, prostration, delirium and the formation of buboes in the armpits and groin; does not spread from person to person

↔ **plague pneumonia, pneumonic plague, pulmonic plague** - a rapidly progressive and frequently fatal form of the plague that can spread through the air from person to person; characterized by lung involvement with chill, bloody expectoration and high fever

↔ **septicemic plague** - an especially dangerous and generally fatal form of the plague in which infecting organisms invade the bloodstream; does not spread from person to person



2. plague - any epidemic disease with a high death rate

≡ **pest, pestilence**

↔ **epidemic disease** - any infectious disease that develops and spreads rapidly to many people

3. plague - a swarm of insects that attack plants; "a plague of grasshoppers"

≡ **infestation**

↔ **swarm, cloud** - a group of many things in the air or on the ground; "a swarm of insects obscured the light"; "clouds of blossoms"; "it discharged a cloud of spores"

4. plague - any large scale calamity (especially when thought to be sent by God)

↔ **calamity, catastrophe, tragedy, disaster, cataclysm** - an event resulting in great loss and misfortune; "the whole city was affected by the irremediable calamity"; "the earthquake was a disaster"

5. plague - an annoyance; "those children are a damn plague"

↔ **pain in the ass, pain in the neck, bother, botheration, infliction, annoyance, pain** - something or someone that causes trouble; a source of unhappiness; "washing dishes was a nuisance before we got a

dish washer"; "a bit of a bother"; "he's not a friend, he's an infliction"

↔ **colloquialism** - a colloquial expression; characteristic of spoken or written communication that seeks to imitate informal speech

Verb 1. **plague** - cause to suffer a blight; "Too much rain may blight the garden with mold"

≡ **blight**

↔ **afflict, smite** - cause physical pain or suffering in; "afflict with the plague"



2. **plague** - annoy continually or chronically; "He is known to harry his staff when he is overworked"; "This man harasses his female co-workers"

≡ **beset, chevy, chevy, chivvy, chivy, harass, harry, hassle, molest, provoke**

↔ **needle, goad** - goad or provoke, as by constant criticism; "He needled her with his sarcastic remarks"



↔ **annoy, devil, gravel, irritate, nark, rile, vex, nettle, rag, bother, chafe, get at, get to** - cause annoyance in; disturb, especially by minor irritations; "Mosquitoes buzzing in my ear really bothers me"; "It irritates me that she never closes the door after she leaves"

↔ **bedevil, dun, rag, torment, frustrate, crucify** - treat cruelly; "The children tormented the stuttering teacher"

↔ **haze** - harass by imposing humiliating or painful tasks, as in military institutions

Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.

plague

noun

- ≡ **disease, infection, epidemic, contagion, pandemic, pestilence, lurgy** (informal) *A cholera plague had killed many prisoners of war.*
- ≡ **infestation, invasion, epidemic, influx, host, swarm, multitude** *The city is under threat from a plague of rats.*
- (Informal) ≡ **bane, trial, cancer, evil, curse, torment, blight, calamity, scourge, affliction** *the cynicism which is the plague of our generation*
- (Informal) ≡ **nuisance, problem, pain** (informal), **bother, pest, hassle** (informal), **annoyance, irritant, aggravation** (informal), **vexation**, thorn in your flesh *Those children can be a real plague at times.*

verb

- ≡ **torment, trouble, pain, torture, haunt, afflict** (informal) *She was plagued by weakness, fatigue, and dizziness.*
- ≡ **pester, trouble, bother, disturb, annoy, tease, harry, harass, hassle, fret, badger, persecute, molest, vex, bedevil**, get on your nerves (informal), give someone grief (Brit. & S. African), be on your back (slang), get in your hair (informal) *I'm not going to plague you with a lot of questions.*

Collins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002

plague *noun*

1. A cause of suffering or harm:

≡ **affliction, bane, curse, evil, ill, scourge, woe.**

2. A sudden increase in something, as the occurrence of a disease:

≡ **epidemic, outbreak, rash.**

3. Something that annoys:

≡ **aggravation, annoyance, besetment, bother, irritant, irritation, nuisance, peeve, torment, vexation.**

verb

1. To disturb by repeated attacks:

≡ **annoy, bait, bedevil, beleague, beset, harass, harry, pester, tease, torment, worry.**

2. To trouble persistently from or as if from all sides:

≡ **badger, bedevil, beleague, beset, besiege, harass, harry, hound, importune, pester, solicit.**

3. To bring great harm or suffering to:

≡ **afflict, agonize, anguish, curse, excruciate, rack, scourge, smite, strike, torment, torture.**

The American Heritage® Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright © 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

Translations

Select a language:  Spanish / Español 

plague [pleɪɡ]

A. *N* (= disease) → **peste** *f* (*fig*) → **plaga** *f*, **fastidio** *m*

a plague of rats → una **plaga** de **ratas**

the plague → la **peste**

to avoid sth/sb like the plague → **huir** de algo/algn como **de la peste**, **evitar** algo **a toda costa**

B. *VT* (*lit*) → **infestar** (*fig*) → **plagar**; [+ *person*] → **atormentar**

the area is plagued with malaria → la **zona** está **infestada** de **malaria**

the thought has been plaguing me → la **idea** me **viene atormentando**

the project has been plagued with problems from the beginning → el **proyecto** se ha **visto plagado** de **problemas** desde el **comienzo**

a country plagued by recession → un **país asolado** por la **recesión**

to plague sb with questions → **acosar** a algn con **preguntas**

Collins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005

plague (pleɪɡ) *noun*

1. *especially* formerly, an extremely infectious and deadly disease, *especially* one carried by fleas from rats.

peste

2. a large and annoying quantity. *a plague of flies.*

plaga

verb

to annoy or pester continually or frequently. *The child was plaguing her with questions.*

acosar ; atormentar ; fastidiar

Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary © 2006-2013 **K Dictionaries Ltd.**

plague

n. peste.

peste bubónica, infección epidémica transmitida por la picadura de pulgas de ratas; enfermedad epidémica que causa alta mortalidad.

English-Spanish Medical Dictionary © Farlex 2012

plague *n* peste *f*, **bubonic** — peste bubónica

English-Spanish/Spanish-English Medical Dictionary Copyright © 2006 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. All rights reserved.

| **Copyright © 2003-2015 Farlex, Inc**

Disclaimer

All content on this website, including dictionary, thesaurus, literature, geography, and other reference data is for informational purposes only. This information should not be considered complete, up to date, and is not intended to be used in place of a visit, consultation, or advice of a legal, medical, or any other professional.

A Mode Tend Parenting Partnership