



“Myrtis, Elizabeth, Alexandros: Three Paths, One Story”

Comparing the Pandemics: Similarities and Differences

The (b)LO(g)NDONERS explored the similarities and differences between the three devastating pandemics Myrtis, Elizabeth, and Alexandros experienced - the plague in ancient Athens, the bubonic plague in 17th-century London, and the COVID-19 pandemic in modern-day Chalkida.

The Diseases

Similarities

All three events involved devastating pandemics or plagues that caused significant death tolls.

Differences

Athens faced an unidentified plague (possibly typhoid)
London dealt with the bubonic plague
Chalkida faced COVID-19

Causes of the Disease

Similarities

All were caused by infectious agents and spread rapidly due to population density and human contact.

Differences

Athens: Spread during war

London: Spread by fleas on rats

Chalkida: Spread globally via respiratory transmission and travel

Measures Taken by Authorities

Similarities

Limited understanding led to reliance on available knowledge, including isolation and local remedies.

Differences

Athens: Religious rituals

London: Quarantines and burning fires

Chalkida: Modern science-based measures like lockdowns and vaccines

What Families Did

Similarities

Families tried to protect themselves and care for their sick members, often staying indoors or fleeing crowded areas.

Differences

Athens: Crowded living conditions left little room for escape
London: Wealthy families fled to the countryside
Chalkida: Families stayed home during lockdowns

How Teenagers Spent Their Time

Similarities

Teenagers helped their families in all time periods and found ways to pass the time indoors or isolated.

Differences

Athens: Religious and household tasks

London: Reading and simple games

Chalkida: Online schooling, video games, and social media

What Changed in People's Lives

Similarities

All events caused disruption, fear, and long-term changes to daily life.

Differences

Athens: Political and social decline

London: Population loss and economic shifts

Chalkida: Mental health challenges and economic uncertainty

Political, Social, and Religious Consequences

Similarities

Faith in leadership and institutions was tested in all cases.

Differences

Athens: Decline in trust in gods and chaos

London: Religious devotion increased

Chalkida: Polarization over health measures and vaccines

Bibliography

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