

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

Exploring three pandemics across different eras through the experiences of three teenagers.



Exploring Three Case Studies

Myrtis
Athens, Greece (430 BC)

Elizabeth
London, England (1665)

Alexandros
Chalkida, Greece (2020)

The (b)LO(g)NDONERS searched on the Internet and collected information about the pandemics that three teenagers experienced in three different eras - Myrtis from ancient Athens, Elizabeth from London, and Alexandros from Chalkida.

They examined themes like causes, measures, family actions, teenagers' activities, life changes, and consequences.

Disease and Causes

Athens, Greece (430 BC)

Disease: Plague (suspected Typhoid Fever)

Cause: Unknown at the time, spread by overcrowding due to the Peloponnesian War.

London, England (1665)

Disease: The Great Plague

Cause: Thought to be "Miasma" (bad air), later discovered to be the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*, spread through fleas on rats.

Chalkida, Greece (2020)

Disease: COVID-19

Cause: SARS-CoV-2 virus spreading from person-to-person globally.

Measures Taken by Authorities

Athens, Greece (430 BC)

- Religious sacrifices to gods
- No effective medical intervention

London, England (1665)

- Theaters and public spaces closed
- Marked infected homes with red crosses
- Fires burned to "clean the air"

Chalkida, Greece (2020)

- Lockdowns and online schooling and working
- Masks and social distancing
- Vaccine distribution

Family Actions

Athens, Greece (430 BC)

- Families stayed together with limited options to flee
- Lived in overcrowded conditions due to war refugees

London, England (1665)

- Wealthier families moved to the countryside
- Stocked up on essentials like food and books

Chalkida, Greece (2020)

- Families stayed home
- Parents worked remotely
- Limited outings for essentials.

How Teenagers Spent Their Time

Myrtis
Athens, Greece (430 BC)

- Household chores and storytelling
- Religious prayers during sickness

Alexandros
Chalkida, Greece (2020)

- Online school (Webex) and homework
- Video games and social media

1

2

3

Elizabeth
London, England (1665)

- Played card games and read the Bible
- Helped with sewing and family tasks

Changes in People's Lives

1 Athens, Greece (430 BC)

- City weakened by disease
- Loss of trust in gods and leaders

2 London, England (1665)

- Population decline
- Increased fear of divine punishment
- Rebuilding of the city after the Great Fire

3 Chalkida, Greece (2020)

- Prolonged use of masks
- Highlighted the importance of science

Political, Social, and Religious Consequences

1

Athens, Greece (430 BC)

- Social chaos and decline in moral values
- Weakening of political and military power

2

London, England (1665)

- Religious interpretation as God's punishment
- Strengthened city infrastructure after recovery

3

Chalkida, Greece (2020)

- Polarization over public health measures
- Reinforced community awareness and science literacy

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