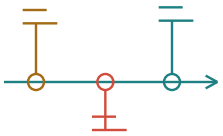
Plague & Social Change



Name _____ Date _____

1 Recall, then make a connection.

Start from memory. Write a meaning or quick example for each term.

Demographic change	Correlation	Scapegoating

A demographic change and a shift in wages occur together. What does that correlation establish? Explain why scapegoating a community does not supply a valid causal explanation.

Context for the task

The Black Death devastated many communities across Afro-Eurasia during the fourteenth century. Modern research identifies plague bacteria as a cause; people living through the pandemic had different and often inaccurate explanations. Their accounts are evidence of their experiences and beliefs, not automatic proof that those explanations were correct.

2 Work with the numbers.

Read the register

A fictional town lists 200 workers in its first register and 140 in a later register. The documents do not specify why each missing name disappeared.

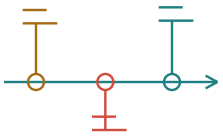
What is the decrease in recorded workers?

Show your calculation. Label the quantities you use.

Answer: _____ workers

What can this result show? What would need more evidence?

Evidence, application & transfer.



3 Read the evidence closely.

Test the labor claim

Claim: "A labor shortage helped workers negotiate higher pay in this town."

Select all evidence directly relevant to testing it.

A. Comparable wage records before and after the shortage.

B. Accounts of employers competing to recruit workers.

C. A writer's unsupported accusation against a religious minority.

D. A later painting that does not identify the town or wages.

Selections: _____ Explain your reasoning:

4 Apply the idea.

The qualified finding

The fictional records show fewer workers and higher recorded pay for a comparable task, but little household information.

Which conclusion is strongest?

A. The records are consistent with a labor-market change; household welfare and the exact cause still need investigation.

B. Every surviving worker became wealthy.

C. The wage ledger proves the disease had only positive effects.

My choice: _____ Explain why it fits:

5 Carry the idea forward.

Write an archive note explaining one possible social or economic consequence of population loss. Use the fictional register and wage evidence, distinguish observation from explanation, and reject unsupported group blame.