

1564, The Plague Year in Stratford-upon-Avon

In London, in 1563, about 20,000 people died from the plague. This was about the same as one person dying out of every three or four people living in London at that time. The winter of 1563 / 1564 was mild, and the fleas that carried the disease did not die (as they would have done in a very cold winter) but merely hibernated. In 1564 the disease spread throughout the rest of the country, and by summer it had reached Stratford-upon-Avon.

William Shakespeare was born in April 1564. His parents must have been terrified that he would catch the plague so it is possible that Mary Shakespeare took her little baby boy to stay with her parents in the countryside until the threat of infection was over.



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Number of burials in Stratford-upon-Avon

	1563	1564	1565
January	4	7	4
February	3	2	2
March	10	4	2
April	7	2	4
May	5	3	4
June	8	3	4
July	5	16	2
August	4	35	1
September	2	84	5
October	3	58	9
November	4	26	5
December	1	19	3

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When did the plague reach Stratford-upon-Avon?.....

How many people died in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1563?.....

How many people died in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564?.....

How many people died in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1565?.....

How many people died in the 'plague' months of 1564?.....

The population of Stratford-upon-Avon at this time was between 2000 and 2500.
What approximately was the proportion of people dying from plague in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564?.....

Draw a bar graph showing the number of burials in 1564.

Use this data to find:

- the mean number of deaths in each of these years
- the range of the number of deaths in these years
- the median number of deaths for each year
- the mode number of deaths for each year

Create a pie chart to show the number of deaths in the years 1563-5.

