**Primary Source: Document A: Eyewitness Account (excerpted)**

*The following document is an account of when the Bubonic Plague ravaged the city of Florence in 1348.*

In the year of our lord 1348 there occurred in the city…of Florence a great pestilence (plague), and such was its fury and violence that in whatever household it took hold, whosoever took care of the sick, all the carers died of the same illness, and almost nobody survived beyond the fourth day, neither doctors nor medicine proving of any avail (use), and there appeared to be no remedy… Such was the fear that nobody knew what to do: when it caught hold in a household, it often happened that not a single person escaped death. And it wasn't just men and women: even…animals such as dogs and cats, hens, oxen, donkeys and sheep, died from that same disease and with those symptoms, and almost none who displayed those symptoms, or very few indeed, effected a recovery (survived).

Those symptoms were as follows: either between the thigh and the body, in the groin region, or under the armpit, there appeared a lump, and a sudden fever, and when the victim spat, he spat blood mixed with saliva, and none of those who spat blood survived. Such was the terror this caused that seeing it take hold in a household, as soon as it started, nobody remained: everybody abandoned the dwelling in fear, and fled to another; some fled into the city and others into the countryside. No doctors were to be found, because they were dying like everybody else; those who could be found wanted exorbitant (very high) fees… before entering the house, and having entered, they took the patient's pulse with their heads turned away…

***Source:*** *Marchionne di Coppo di Stefano Buonaiuti, a politician active in the 1370’s recalling the bubonic plague.*