

**artisan** (är'tī-zən) *n.* a person who is skilled in a trade

**C PATTERNS OF ORGANIZATION**

Reread lines 30–45. What clue words help you recognize the pattern of organization?

**recurrence** (rĭ-kûr'əns) *n.* the act of happening again; return

**D INTERPRET GRAPHIC AIDS**

What was the population of western Europe in the early 1300s?

The shortage of skilled craftsmen caused an industrial crisis. Unlike agricultural workers, craftsmen require long apprenticeships, and now  
40 there were few replacements when any skilled **artisan** died. Reduced production forced prices of saddles, farm tools, and other goods to soar. **C**

This depopulation crisis, however, encouraged technological developments. The most notable labor-saving invention was the printing press, developed around 1450. One such press replaced hand-copying by hundreds of scribes.<sup>2</sup>

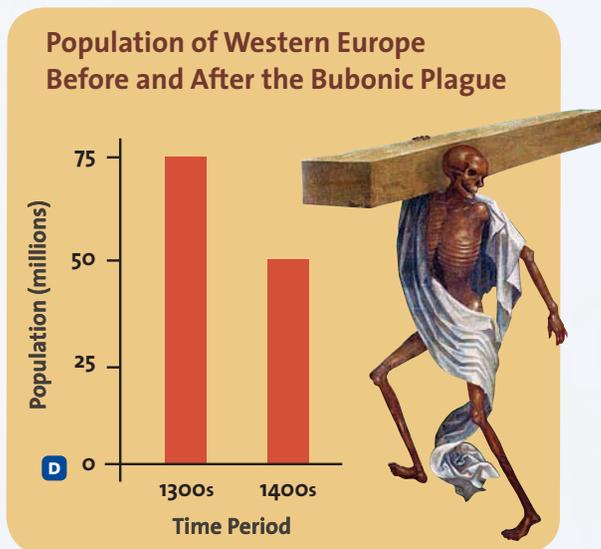
**T**he Black Death affected the entire medieval social structure. When the pestilence returned a few years later, people were even more terrified. Its unpredictable **recurrence** in the following decades was enough to keep Europeans in constant fear. A mood of gloom swept  
60 across Europe, and many began to question the authority of the church. In fact, they began to have doubts about their entire world view. Yet, it was this questioning that led to far-reaching reforms in religion, art, medicine, and science. Without a doubt, the Black  
70 Death forever changed Europe's economic and social structure.

2. **scribes:** people whose job was to copy manuscripts.



Survivors of the plague use a printing press to copy manuscript.

Illumination from *Chants royaux* (about 1500). Bibliothèque Nationale. © akg-images/VISIOARS.



Detail of *Danse Macabre. Pope* (1500s), Bernt Notke. Oil on canvas, 160 cm × 750 cm. St. Nicholas' Church, Art Museum of Estonia, Tallinn, Estonia. © Bridgeman Art Library.