

ZIPTALES™

Worksheet 2

The Pied Piper of Hamelin

The Mystery of the Children of Hamelin

The history of Hamelin records that 130 children disappeared from the town when they followed a piper. Today people have different theories as to what happened. These are the three most popular explanations.

- They joined the Children's Crusade that left from Germany led by a youth called Stephen.
- They died of the plague.
- They were taken by a secret underground passage and emerged in caves in Transylvania. Here they grew up as Germans of Transylvania.



Directions:

You are to work in a group of three to complete this assignment.

1. Your group is a **The Cold Case Investigation** team similar to those on Television who are asked to investigate unsolved crimes or mysteries.
2. Your assignment is to examine the three theories that are used to explain what happened.
3. You can do this by checking out the following on the internet:
 - i) Children's crusades.
 - ii) The connection between rats and the plague.
 - iii) Transylvania Tours to Meresti caves.

Make very brief notes on each, (no more than 5 or 6 lines of writing)



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Children's Crusades: _____

Rats and the Plague: _____

Transylvania Tours to Meresti caves: _____

With the other members of your group examine the information you have found.

Are there inconsistencies as regards the date of any event that would rule it out as a theory?

Which theory do you think is the most likely?
