

## Ring-a-Ring-Roses: Preview

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## Nursery Rhymes

Have you heard before  
that many nursery  
rhymes are actually  
about terrible things?

Such as 'Baa Baa Black  
Sheep' is about the evils of  
taxation; or that 'Three Blind  
Mice' is about an evil queen  
who killed protestants.



# Ring-a-Ring-Roses

Ring-a-ring-roses  
 A pocket full of posies  
 Ashes! Ashes!  
 We all fall down.  
 Greenway, 1881



This is the oldest recorded version of this nursery rhyme (written in 1881) but it has been around for a very long time: and there are many different versions.

Ashes, ashes is the traditional version. Other versions are 'a tissue, a tissue' or 'a-choo, a-choo'

## How can we check how reliable the information we read is?

To prepare this PowerPoint on Ring-a-Ring-a-Roses, I used information I found online.

How do I know what online information to trust? Different websites had different ideas about the origin of the nursery rhyme.

**Ring Around the Rosy Rhyme**

Origins of "Ring around the rosy" in English History

**Connections to the Bubonic Plague (Black Death)?**

The words to the Ring around the rosy children's song game have their origin in English history. The historical period dates back to the Great Plague of London in 1665 (bubonic plague) or even before when the first outbreak of the Plague hit England in the 1300s. The symptoms of the plague included a rosy red rash in the shape of a ring on the skin (Ring around the rosy). Pockets and pouches were filled with sweet smelling herbs (or posies) which were carried due to the belief that the disease was.

[Nurseryrhymes.org.uk](http://Nurseryrhymes.org.uk)



[Home](#) → [Language](#) → [Literary Legends](#) → [Ring Around the Rosie](#)  
**Ring Around the Rosie**  
Claim: The nursery rhyme 'Ring Around the Rosie' is a coded reference to the Black Plague.

[Snopes.com](http://Snopes.com)

## How reliable are these websites?

Compare these two websites about 'Ring around a Rosey'. Which one would you argue is more reliable? Why? Tip: Check the homepage and 'about' pages for extra insight.

### Nursery Rhymes Lyrics and Origins:

- [http://www.rhymes.org.uk/ring\\_around\\_the\\_rosy.htm](http://www.rhymes.org.uk/ring_around_the_rosy.htm)

### Snopes Urban Legends:

- <http://www.snopes.com/language/literary/rosie.asp>

## Which is more reliable? Why?

	Organisation	Author	Purpose	Sources	Currency
Nursery Rhymes					
Snopes					

## Year 8 Australian Curriculum History

### **Historical Skills**

- Identify and locate relevant sources, using ICT and other methods (ACHHS151)
- Draw conclusions about the usefulness of sources (ACHHS154)

### **Historical Knowledge and Understanding**

- Depth Study 3 Expanding Contacts: The Black Death in Asia, Europe and Africa (14th century plague)

### **Achievement Standards:**

- They describe different interpretations of the past.
- They analyse, select and organise information from primary and secondary sources.

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