

WHAT ^{IN THE} WORLD?

LEVEL 1 (GRADES 5 AND UP)

COVID-19 An Alarming Virus

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SAMPLE EDITION
2019/2020: ISSUE 6



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NATIONAL

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TO THE TEACHER

WHAT IN THE WORLD?

FREE ARTICLE

Level 1, 2019/2020: Issue 6

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We welcome your comments and appreciate your suggestions. Please contact us at any time.

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LesPlan Educational Services Ltd. aims to help teachers develop students' understanding of and ability to critically assess current issues and events by providing quality up-to-date, affordable, ready-to-use resources.

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• **IS EASY TO USE**

Easily access links referenced in **WHAT IN THE WORLD?** by visiting www.lesplan.com/en/links.

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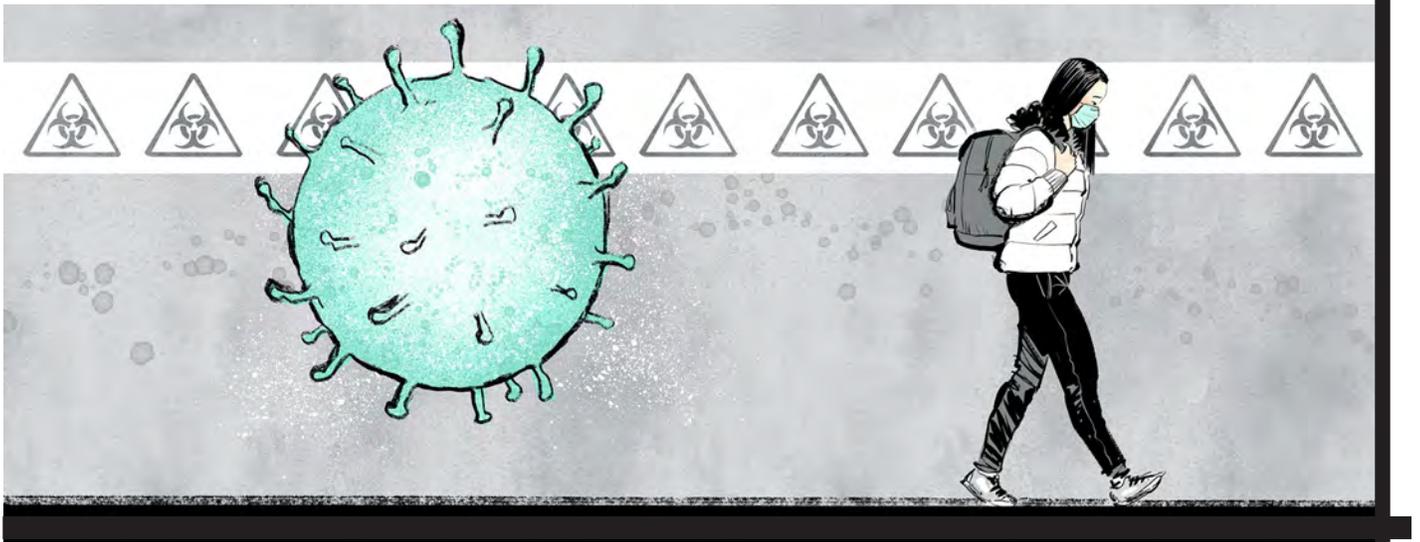
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INTERNATIONAL COVID-19

– ALARMING VIRUS IS MAKING ITS WAY AROUND THE GLOBE



The adventure of a lifetime! No doubt that’s what Quebecers Diane and Bernard Menard hoped for when they boarded the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship on January 20. The 3700 passengers and crew were departing from Yokohama, Japan. They were embarking on a 14-day ocean voyage to China, Vietnam, and Taiwan.

The Menards’ dream trip would soon turn into a nightmare. On January 25, an 80-year-old passenger was whisked off the boat when it arrived in Hong Kong. At a hospital she was diagnosed with COVID-19. It’s a potentially dangerous – and highly contagious – strain of a family of diseases called coronaviruses.

A BAD COLD – OR MUCH WORSE?

Coronaviruses cause diseases in birds and mammals. They can also cause common colds in humans. The viruses primarily spread when infected people cough or sneeze. Germs can live on surfaces for up to nine days.

Some exposed people never show symptoms. Others develop fever, cough, and shortness of breath in two to 14 days. Often, COVID-19 is no worse than a bad cold. But for those with heart and lung issues or weak immune systems, it can turn into pneumonia or bronchitis and prove fatal. Elderly people are especially vulnerable.

QUARANTINED!

Fearing the spread of COVID-19 throughout the ship, the crew sailed the *Diamond Princess*

A CLASS OF KILLER DISEASES

Science has identified hundreds of coronaviruses, but only seven so far have mutated to infect humans – and just two have resulted in outbreaks. The first was Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which began in China in 2002. It infected nearly 8100 people worldwide and caused 774 deaths. Canada was the hardest-hit country outside of China, with 44 people dying of the illness before it was contained in July 2003.

The second serious outbreak was Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS. It started in Saudi Arabia in 2012 but didn’t escalate until 2014. It was a **virulent** version of the strain. By the time it was controlled in 2015, it had infected 1329 people, killing nearly half of them.

DEFINITIONS

VIRULENT: extremely dangerous and deadly



INTERNATIONAL COVID-19

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back to Japan. Health officials then **quarantined** all passengers. They were confined to their cabins for 14 days.

Still, by mid-February, 454 passengers developed the bug, including 15 Canadians. The Menards, both 75 years old, were among them. The sick received medical treatment. The 131 Canadians on the ship who tested negative returned to Canada on February 21. Once home, they were quarantined on military bases for 14 more days.

A FAST-MOVING VIRUS

The world first learned of COVID-19 in December, after some pneumonia cases appeared in the Chinese city of Wuhan, home to 11 million people.

Ground zero was likely a seafood market. On that site, some merchants illegally sell marmots, birds, rabbits, bats, snakes, and other creatures. Experts believe that the virus jumped from infected wildlife to humans, then began spreading from person to person.

THE CHINESE RESPONSE

China took massive measures to try to contain the outbreak. It suspended all travel in many regions. Outdoor activities were banned. Tens of millions

of citizens were quarantined in their homes. In late January, a 1000-bed hospital was built in just six days to treat cases.

News of the outbreak coincided with China's huge Lunar New Year travel season. The holiday was extended to discourage people from passing on the bug through travel.

A "PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY"

Yet the disease still spread. On January 30, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a "public health emergency of international concern." It called for global action to contain the outbreak. WHO's director, Dr. Tedros Gebreyesus, said countries with weak health systems were most at risk. The reason? They don't have the resources to treat large numbers of sick people.

UNCERTAIN OUTCOME

By late February, over 79,000 people worldwide had developed COVID-19. More than 2600 had died. The vast majority were in China. However, there were 500 cases elsewhere. Canada had 11 cases but no fatalities.

There was some good news: the number of new cases in China appeared to be dropping. But

SHOULD YOU WORRY?

There is no vaccine yet to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Still, your chances of catching the virus are very low.

Why? Because Canada has been acting to prevent COVID-19 from taking hold here. Hospitals were alerted to look out for possible cases. And officials brought in airport screening procedures in Vancouver, Montreal, and Toronto. As well, people suspected of having the disease have been quarantined.

There are measures you can take, too. Wash your hands thoroughly, avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth, and avoid people with flu symptoms.

new instances were reported in Italy, Iran, and South Korea. Disturbingly, the victims couldn't be linked to China or other confirmed cases.

Dr. Gebreyesus urged countries to keep working to contain the virus. But he said they must also prepare for the possibility that it will become widespread.

"It's in our hands now," he said. "If we do well within the narrowing window of opportunity... we can **avert** any serious crisis." ★

DEFINITIONS

AVERT: to prevent something bad or harmful from happening

QUARANTINE: to keep a person or animal away from others to stop a disease from spreading



ON THE LINES

Answer the following in complete sentences:

1. Explain what a **coronavirus** is.

2. How many coronaviruses have been identified? How many of these have impacted humans?

3. Explain how a coronavirus usually spreads from person to person.

4. Which new coronavirus appeared in China in early December? Where was it first discovered?

5. Explain how this virus affects humans.

6. Describe the measures that China adopted to try and control the outbreak.

7. What did the World Health Organization declare on January 30?

8. How many people had been infected by COVID-19 by late February? How many people had died?



INTERNATIONAL COVID-19

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BETWEEN THE LINES

An *inference* is a conclusion drawn from evidence. A *plausible inference* is supported by evidence in the article and is consistent with known facts outside of the article.

What inferences can you draw from the fact that researchers have begun working on a COVID-19 vaccine? Explain.

JUST TALK ABOUT IT

1. As you see it, what is the significance of this article? Explain.
2. What is your understanding of the origins of COVID-19?
3. Your friend has seen headlines about the coronavirus spreading in China and worldwide, and he's worried. What information would you like to pass along to him, and what advice can you offer? Explain.
4. On February 10, federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau said that "The [corona]virus is undoubtedly going to have an economic impact" on Canada and globally. As you see it, in what ways might this virus affect Canada's economy? The global economy? Give reasons to support your response.

ONLINE

Note: The links below are listed at www.lesplan.com/en/links for easy access.

1. Find out more about the coronavirus on the World Health Organization's website at <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus> and on the Government of Canada's website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus.html>
2. Read more about COVID-19 on the LiveScience website at <https://www.livescience.com/new-china-coronavirus-faq.html>.
3. Watch 'Novel coronaviruses, explained' at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKRz7mOyerk> [1:21].
4. Watch 'Coronavirus explained: Where it came from and how to stop it' at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYlzyQnSGD8> [3:21]. ★



Directions: Respond to the infographic below. What information conveyed in the infographic is new to you? What is interesting to you? What seems to be especially significant? Why? Overall, how does the information in this infographic enhance your understanding of the coronavirus outbreak? Explain.

Key facts about the coronavirus

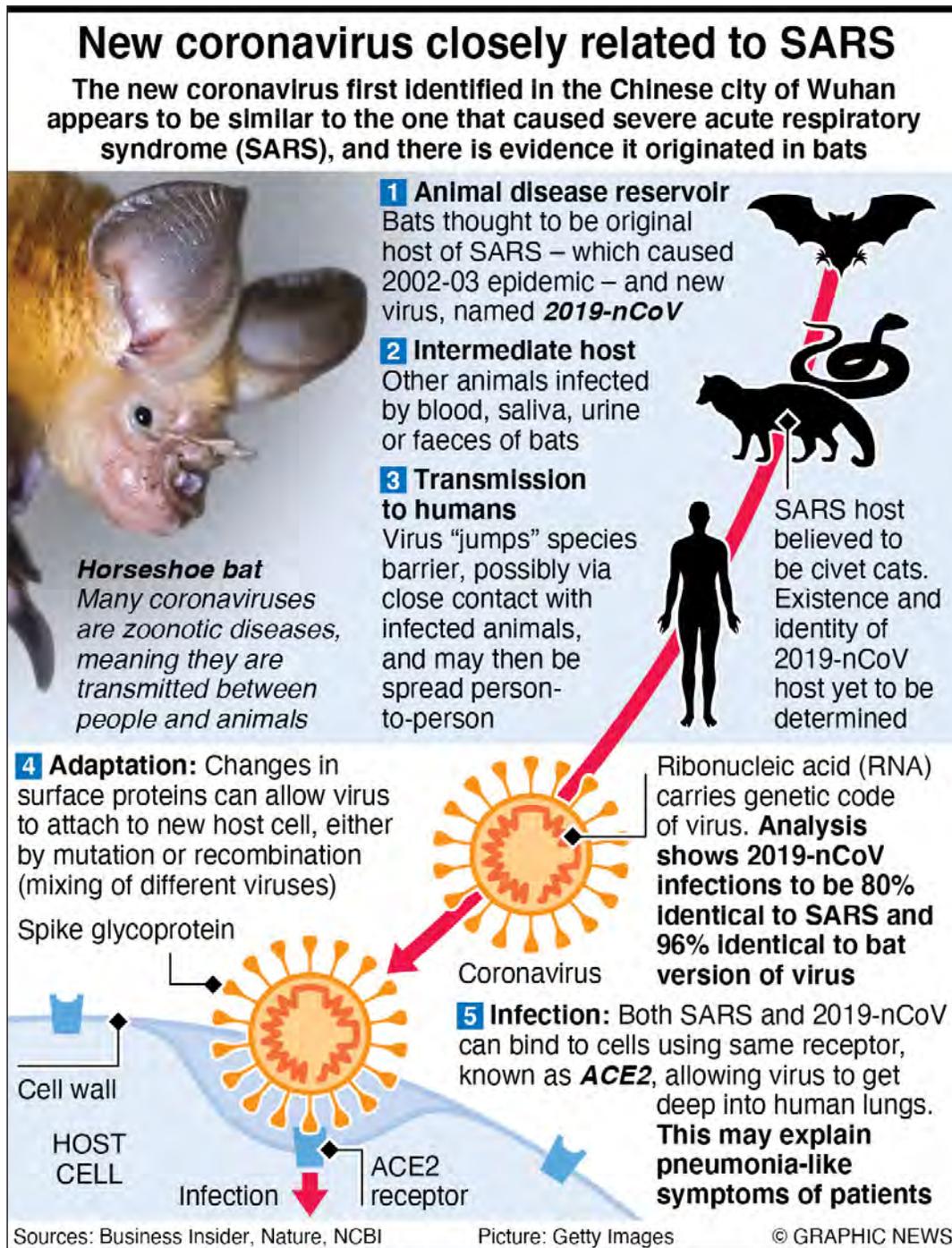
The new coronavirus first identified in the Chinese city of Wuhan belongs to a family of viruses that includes the common cold and more serious illnesses such as SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome). The disease caused by the new virus has been named Covid-19*

 <p>Symptoms Include fever, cough and breathing difficulties. About 82 percent of cases are mild, similar to common cold. Some 15 percent of cases are severe and three percent are critical, according to Chinese data shared with WHO</p>	 <p>Prevention WHO recommends that people wash hands frequently, cover their mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, and avoid close contact with those who are sick. WHO hopes to have vaccine in 18 months</p>
 <p>Transmission Through droplets when infected person coughs or sneezes, or via contaminated surfaces such as door handles. Incubation period believed to be up to 14 days. People may be able to infect others before symptoms appear</p>	 <p>Global spread About 99 percent of infections are in mainland China, and almost 96 percent of deaths have been in Hubei province and its capital Wuhan, where virus emerged in late 2019. At least 25 other countries have confirmed cases</p>
 <p>People at risk About two percent of people infected with virus have died. Disease can pose particular risk to elderly people and those with pre-existing medical conditions. People over 80 years of age have highest death rates</p>	 <p>Source of virus Believed to be food market in Wuhan that was illegally selling wild animals. Scientists think it may have originated in bats and passed to humans via intermediate species – possibly pangolins – although finding is not confirmed</p>

*Name is shortened version of coronavirus disease 2019
Source: Reuters Pictures: AP, CDC, Flickr / Tina Franklin, Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS



Directions: Respond to the infographic below. What information conveyed in the infographic is new to you? What is interesting to you? What seems to be especially significant? Why? Overall, how does the information in this infographic enhance your understanding of the coronavirus outbreak? Explain.





MAP ASSIGNMENT

Complete this map assignment to better understand the article *COVID-19*.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Obtain the required resources and read all the instructions before starting.
2. Colour your map **after** all labelling is completed.
3. Print in pencil only first, then go over the printing in black ink.
4. Work carefully and neatly.

Resources Required: pencil, black pen, pencil crayons, ruler, eraser and an atlas.

Part A Locate and label the capital of China and underline this city name.

Part B Locate Hubei province in China and shade it purple.

Part C Locate and label the capital city of Hubei province.

Part D Locate the following Chinese provinces and shade each dark red:

Henan	Zhejiang	Guangdong
-------	----------	-----------

Part E Locate the following Chinese provinces and shade each light red:

Shaanxi	Shanxi	Hebei
Beijing (self-governing city)	Tianjin (self-governing city)	Liaoning
Shanghai (self-governing city)	Heilongjiang	Shandong
Jiangsu	Anhui	Jiangxi
Fujian	Guangxi (autonomous region)	Hunan
Guizhou	Yunnan	Sichuan
Hainan		

Part F Locate the following Chinese provinces and shade each pink:

Xinjiang	Qinghai	Gansu
Ningxia (autonomous region)	Jilin	Inner Mongolia (autonomous region)

Part G Locate Tibet (Xizang) Autonomous Region and shade it light pink.

Part H Locate and label the following and shade all salt water dark blue:

Pacific Ocean	Yellow Sea
---------------	------------

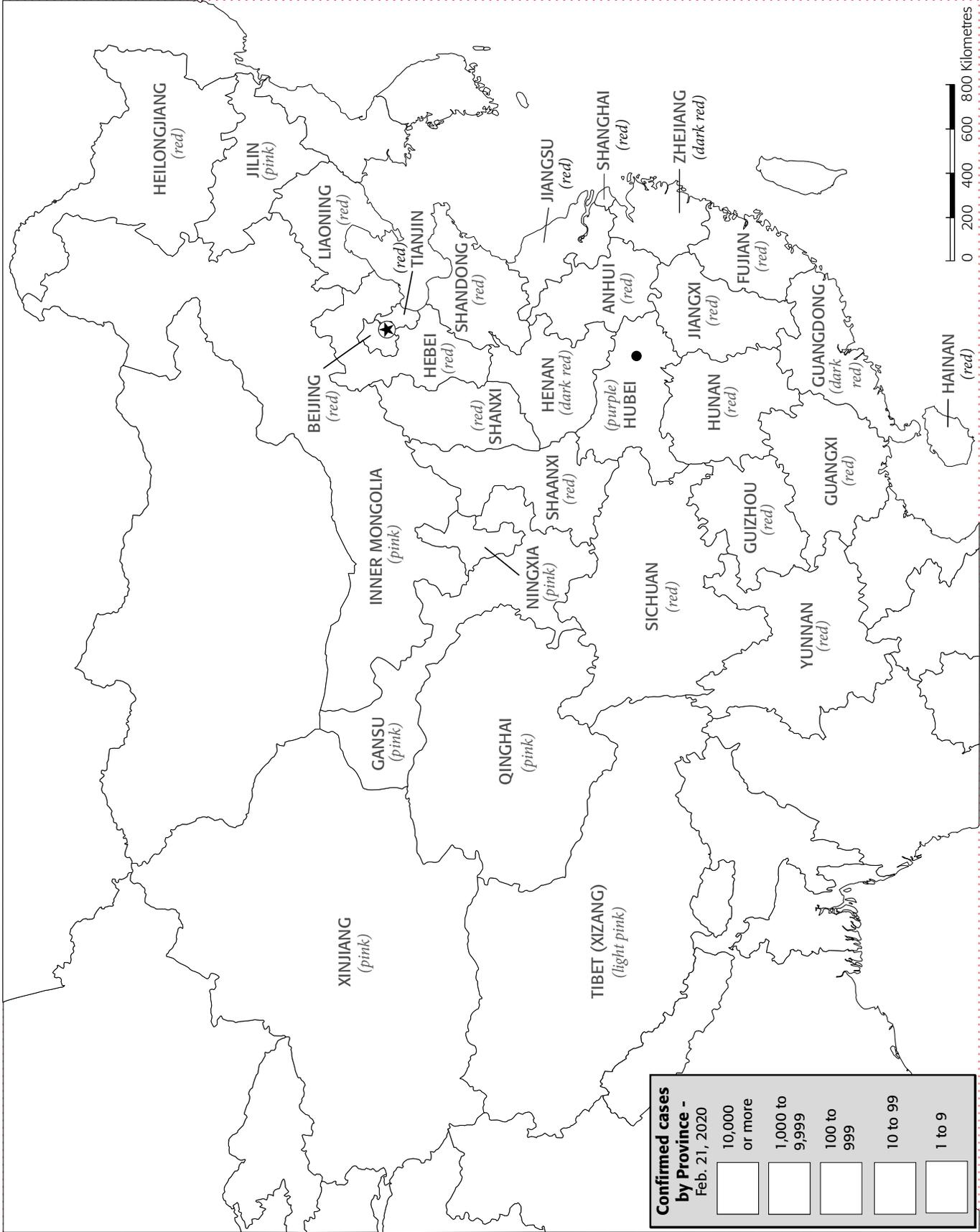
Part I Shade all remaining territory grey.

Part J Complete your map with a frame, title, and compass. ★



China

***Note:** Taiwan is an island that has for all practical purposes been independent since 1950. However, China regards the island as a rebel region that is part of the People's Republic of China and must be reunited with the mainland.



HEILONGJIANG (red)

JILIN (pink)

LIAONING (red)

BEIJING (red)

HEBEI (red)

SHANXI (red)

SHANDONG (red)

TIANJI (red)

INNER MONGOLIA (pink)

GANSU (pink)

QINGHAI (pink)

XINJIANG (pink)

TIBET (XIZANG) (light pink)

NINGXIA (pink)

SHAANXI (red)

HENAN (dark red)

JIANGSU (red)

ANHUI (red)

HUBEI (purple)

SICHUAN (red)

YUNNAN (red)

GUANGDONG (dark red)

GUANGXI (red)

GUIZHOU (red)

HUNAN (red)

JIANGXI (red)

FUJIAN (red)

ZHEJIANG (dark red)

HAINAN (red)

SHANGHAI (red)



MAP ASSIGNMENT

Complete this map assignment to better understand the article *COVID-19*.

INSTRUCTIONS

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3. Print in pencil only first, then go over the printing in black ink.
4. Work carefully and neatly.

Resources Required: pencil, black pen, pencil crayons, ruler, eraser and an atlas.

Part A Locate and label the following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

China (green)	Mongolia (purple)	Japan (pink)
Taiwan* (yellow)	Philippines (brown)	India (purple)

Part B Locate and label the capital of each country and underline each city name.

Part C Locate and label the following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

Russia (orange)	Kazakhstan (red)	Nepal (orange)
Bhutan (yellow)	Bangladesh (pink)	Myanmar (orange)
Thailand (pink)	Laos (purple)	Cambodia (yellow)
Vietnam (red)	North Korea (red)	South Korea (orange)

Part D Locate and label the Chinese province of Hubei and shade it dark green.

Part E Locate and label the capital of this province.

Part F Locate and label the following cities:

Shanghai	Guangzhou	Tianjin
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Part G Locate and label the following rivers and shade them light blue:

Pearl River	Yangtze River (Chang Jiang River)
Huang He River (Yellow River)	

Part H Locate and label the following and shade all ocean water dark blue:

Pacific Ocean	Sea of Japan
South China Sea	Bay of Bengal

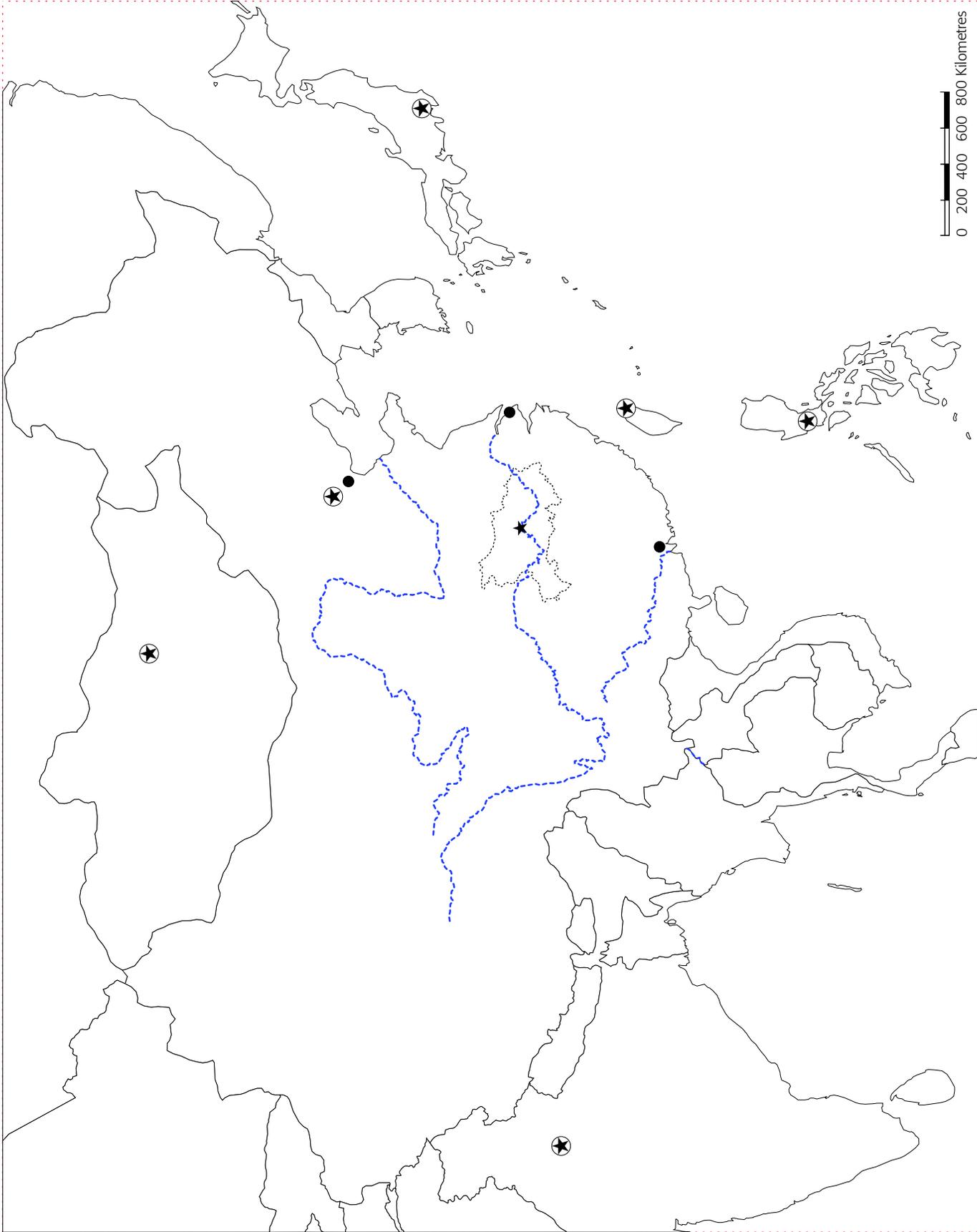
Part I Shade all remaining territories grey.

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China

*Note: Taiwan is an island that has for all practical purposes been independent since 1950. However, China regards the island as a rebel region that is part of the People's Republic of China and must be reunited with the mainland.



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What in the World? Le Monde en Marche

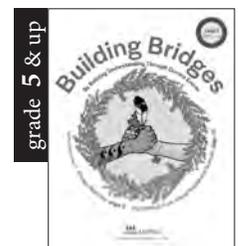
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D. Faerber, Pembroke, ON

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WHAT IN THE WORLD?
 Sample Pages

INTERNATIONAL FRANCE'S NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS
 CITY HEAVY WOUNDED BY FLAMES

On April 15, Notre-Dame de Paris caught fire. This medieval cathedral in the French capital was damaged by the fire. The fire started in the attic and spread to the roof. The fire was extinguished by firefighters. The fire caused significant damage to the cathedral. The fire was caused by a fire in the attic. The fire was caused by a fire in the attic. The fire was caused by a fire in the attic.

REPAIRING SCENE
 The damage to the cathedral is so great that it will take years to repair. The fire caused significant damage to the cathedral. The fire was caused by a fire in the attic. The fire was caused by a fire in the attic. The fire was caused by a fire in the attic.

DEFINITIONS
 CATHEDRAL: a large church building with a high roof and a tall spire.
 MEDIEVAL: relating to the Middle Ages.
 FIRE: a hot, glowing mass of burning material.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCE'S NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS
 CITY HEAVY WOUNDED BY FLAMES

Notre-Dame fire: Assessing the damage

The diagram shows the damage to Notre-Dame de Paris. It shows the fire starting in the attic and spreading to the roof. The fire caused significant damage to the cathedral. The fire was caused by a fire in the attic. The fire was caused by a fire in the attic. The fire was caused by a fire in the attic.

DEFINITIONS
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INTERNATIONAL FRANCE'S NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS
 CITY HEAVY WOUNDED BY FLAMES

ANSWER KEY

1. How long did it take to build the Notre-Dame cathedral?
 a) 150 years b) 200 years c) 250 years d) 300 years

2. How many towers topped Notre-Dame in total?
 a) 2 towers b) 3 towers c) 4 towers d) 5 towers

3. What is the name of the city where Notre-Dame is located?
 a) Paris b) London c) Rome d) New York

4. How many towers topped Notre-Dame in total?
 a) 2 towers b) 3 towers c) 4 towers d) 5 towers

INTERNATIONAL THE UIGHURS OF CHINA
 -TERRORISTS OR VICTIMS?

Human rights groups around the world report that China has imprisoned up to one million Uighurs living in China's Xinjiang region. Satellite images and other evidence show a growing number of detention centres in Xinjiang, including at least 44 high-security buildings.

FAKE NEWS
 The Chinese government, however, denies this accusation. It is 'completely untrue', a senior Chinese official told the UN last August. The centres have been set up to teach lessons on Chinese history, language, and culture. They offer 'nutritious, free diets'. The buildings are also used as job retraining centres, another official explained.

However, China does admit to cracking down on 'extremist activity' among Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang. It claims that Islamic militants and separatists are plotting attacks and stirring up tension between Uighurs and Han Chinese.

DEFINITIONS
 AUTONOMOUS: freedom to govern or control in one's own affairs.
 DETENTION CENTRE: a place where prisoners are held temporarily.
 EXTREMIST: far beyond the norm.
 HAN CHINESE: China's main ethnic group.

PERFECTIVE: to understand or think about something in a particular way.
SEPARATIST: a group that wants to form a new country.
SOVIET UNION: a former country of Europe and Asia.
UNDERGROUND: secretly working against an existing regime.

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