Battling Ebola

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TO THE TEACHER

WHAT IN THE WORLD?

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

SUGGESTED APPROACH

WHAT IN THE WORLD? is a complete current events program that can be used on its own or to supplement an existing classroom routine. This classroom-ready resource offers ‘something for everyone’ and can be taught as a whole or in parts, in-class, or as a homework assignment.

WHAT IN THE WORLD?:

• ALLOWS FOR DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING

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• IS TECH-FRIENDLY

Project each month’s pdf on your Promethean or Smart Board to read articles together. Our pdfs also work seamlessly with assistive reading technology like Kurzweil. Try uploading them to Google Classroom!

• IS EASY TO USE


PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

A publication schedule listing the release dates for each issue is posted on the Subscriber page of our website at: www.lesplan.com/en/subscriber-issues

Please contact us at any time with your questions or concerns.
A year-long epidemic of the killer disease Ebola is raging in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo), the second-largest country in Africa. It has caused a full-scale “public health emergency of international concern,” the World Health Organization (WHO) declared in July.

The designation, which has only been used four times before, is the agency’s most serious alarm. The announcement was a call to action and a cry for help.

“It is time for the world to take notice and redouble our effort [to stop the epidemic],” stated WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. “We all owe it to [current] responders… to shoulder more of the burden.”

A DEADLY TOLL

Since August 2018, the disease has infected at least 2700 people and killed over 1800, most in two provinces in the country’s northeast, North Kivu and Ituri. About 12 new cases are being reported every day. It’s the 10th – and worst – outbreak the nation has experienced in 43 years, and authorities fear it could get even worse. Why? Because in early August 2019, four cases were identified in Goma, a city of two million that is a major trade and transportation centre. If any of the thousands of people who pass through this city each day contract Ebola, the disease could quickly spread to other regions.

WHAT IS EBOLA?

Ebola was first identified in the African countries of Sudan and DR Congo in 1976. The origin of the virus is unknown, but fruit bats are the most likely host. They can infect animals such as chimpanzees, gorillas, and monkeys. The virus can then be passed to humans when they come into contact with infected animals.

Once a person falls sick with Ebola, the virus can spread from human to human. However, it is not highly contagious, because infection requires direct contact with the blood, body fluids (urine, sweat, saliva), or tissues of infected people showing symptoms.

Those infected by Ebola first experience flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle aches and pains, and sore throat. That is followed by vomiting, diarrhea, and then external and internal bleeding. Without treatment, up to 90 percent of those who fall ill with Ebola may die. However, hospital care that includes supplying patients with plenty of liquids and oxygen to keep their blood pressure steady, and dealing with other complications as they come up, can greatly improve a victim's chance of survival. So can two new drugs, named REGN-EB3 and mAb114, that the WHO began testing on patients last November. In August, scientists reported that more than 90 percent of infected people who were treated early with these drugs survived. The results were a major breakthrough. Now, say health officials, the new medication will be used to treat all patients with the disease in DR Congo.

THE POWER OF VACCINES

Vaccines are another weapon being used in the fight against Ebola.

DEFINITIONS

**DESIGNATION**: a name or title that identifies someone or something

**EPIDEMIC**: a widespread outbreak of an infectious disease

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**: United Nations Agency created in 1948 to provide leadership on global health matters
The worst Ebola outbreak occurred in West Africa between 2014 and 2016 and killed over 11,000 people. In response to this epidemic, scientists around the world, including in Canada, raced to develop effective vaccines to stop the spread of the disease.

Ebola vaccine research has been ongoing since that time, and vaccines are playing a role in stopping the spread of the current outbreak in DR Congo. Over a two-month period last spring, clinics inoculated 150,000 people against the disease, and vaccinations are ongoing.

**PROBLEM ONE: VIOLENCE**

So why, then, is the epidemic in DR Congo proving so difficult to stop? Officials and health workers say that several factors have complicated their efforts to halt the spread of the disease. One big stumbling block is violence. Since 1994, the eastern region of DR Congo has been embroiled in one conflict after another between rival militias. This fighting has claimed the lives of some five million people. Another four million have been displaced and 13 million people are struggling just to eat – including over 1.3 million children under five affected by acute malnutrition.

In June alone, according to the UN, more than 300,000 people fled for their lives when two ethnic groups clashed in Ituri province, which borders Uganda and South Sudan.

“My husband was killed in a massacre,” a local woman reported. “At that time, all I wanted was some organization to come protect us from the killings, but no international organization came.”

Others are violent. Over a one-year period, there were nearly 200 attacks on Ebola clinics, during which seven people died and 58 were injured.

**PROBLEM TWO: MISTRUST**

Another problem is that many people in DR Congo have little faith in local authorities and even less trust of foreigners. They are also suspicious of the motives of healthcare workers, who are often accompanied by armed security guards.

Dr. Richard Olds, a tropical disease specialist, gives this scenario: “A loved one goes into a green tent, with people in space suits that don’t look like Africans, and never comes out again; that is an environment that breeds a lot of suspicion and stories that are very counterproductive to the efforts of public health.”

Reports indicate that one-quarter of the DR Congo population doubts that Ebola is even real. Rumours circulate that the disease is a hoax designed to let foreigners make money by selling human organs. Others believe the vaccines make them sick.

That means some Ebola victims are unlikely to seek medical help, which explains why one-third of all Ebola deaths are in people’s homes, where the disease is more likely to spread.

It also means that many people are uncooperative with health care workers trying to assist them. One consequence of that is officials often can’t easily track the people the victims came into contact with to offer them treatment.

Some citizens are simply cynical about aid groups that have come and gone over the years.

**NEVER GIVE UP**

However, despite these serious obstacles, the WHO says the world shouldn’t give up. There are thousands of people affected by Ebola who need our help, and front-line workers who need our support.

“The challenges to stopping further transmission are indeed considerable. But none are insurmountable. And none can be an excuse for not getting the job done.”

---

**REFERENCES**

- **Militia**: a group of people who are not part of the armed forces of a country but are trained like soldiers
- **Cynical**: believing that people are selfish and dishonest
- **Insurmountable**: impossible to deal with successfully

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**EXTRA INFORMATION**

**DR Congo**

DR Congo is located in Central Africa. It has a population of nearly 92 million, and vast amounts of oil, diamonds, gold, and other natural resources. However, according to World Bank estimates, two-thirds of the population is considered extremely poor and lives on less than $1.90 a day.

Nine countries share a land border with DR Congo. To the north is South Sudan and the Central African Republic. To the east are Tanzania, Burundi, Uganda, and Rwanda. The Republic of Congo is on the west, while Angola and Zambia are to the south.
Answer the following in complete sentences:

1. Describe the symptoms of people infected with the Ebola virus.

2. How do people contract Ebola?

3. Where and when did Ebola first occur?

4. Where and when did the worst Ebola outbreak occur?

5. In which part of DR Congo did the most recent Ebola outbreak occur? How many people have been affected?

6. Describe how health care workers treat Ebola patients.

7. What is the population of DR Congo?

8. Describe the violence that is common in this country. How have these wars affected the efforts to stop Ebola?

9. Identify at least two other reasons why the current Ebola outbreak is difficult to contain.

10. Describe how vaccines are being used to stop the spread of Ebola in DR Congo.
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 inference(s) can you draw from the fact that in July, the WHO declared the Ebola outbreak in DR Congo a full-scale "public health emergency of international concern" – a designation it has only used four times before?

A key to containing the Ebola outbreak is education and awareness about how the disease is spread. Using the information in the article 'Battling Ebola' and any additional information you're able to find online, design a poster to inform people about Ebola – what it is, how it is spread, and what people need to do to avoid contracting this illness.

A good poster is visually appealing and communicates key information clearly and accurately.

1. What reasons can you suggest to explain why the Ebola outbreak in DR Congo has been so difficult to get under control?
2. As you see it, what is the significance of the Ebola outbreak in DR Congo? Explain.

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

3. Learn about Doctors Without Borders, the non-governmental organization working in DR Congo on the frontlines of the Ebola outbreak, and how this organization is helping at https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/ebola-outbreak-democratic-republic-congo/

Respond to the infographic on page 8. 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 Ebola outbreak in DR Congo? Explain. ★
One year after the start of a deadly Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo, health officials have confirmed the first direct transmission of the virus in Goma, a city of two million people and a major transit hub.

Aug 1, Goma: Four confirmed Ebola cases inside city – transport links include airport with flights serving DRC capital Kinshasa, Uganda’s Entebbe, and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, as well as lakeside port that connects to South Kivu province.

Sources: Associated Press, France 24, World Health Organization

© GRAPHIC NEWS
International Battling Ebola – Frustration and Fear in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Write the inner and outer dialogue for two or more people in this scene. Show what the person is thinking/feeling (inner voice) and saying (outer voice). A believable conversation conveys appropriate ideas, thoughts, feelings or reactions; is on topic; extends the details of the scene; and is convincing.

A girl receives a vaccine against Ebola from a nurse in Goma on August 7, 2019. (AUGUSTIN WAMENYA/AFP/Getty Images)
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 following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:
- Zimbabwe (yellow)
- Mozambique (purple)
- Botswana (brown)
- Namibia (green)
- Angola (pink)
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (yellow)
- Zambia (orange)
- Kenya (yellow)
- Tanzania (green)

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

Part C Locate and label South Africa in CAPITAL letters and shade it pink.

Part D Locate and label the legislative, administrative and judicial capitals of South Africa and underline each city name.

Part E Locate and label the following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:
- Lesotho (orange)
- Eswatini (Swaziland) (red)
- Malawi (red)
- Burundi (purple)
- Rwanda (red)
- Uganda (brown)
- Rep. of the Congo (orange)
- Gabon (red)
- Cameroon (green)
- Central African Republic (pink)
- South Sudan (purple)
- Ethiopia (orange)

Part F Locate and label the following lakes and shade them light blue:
- Lake Victoria
- Lake Tanganyika
- Lake Nyasa (Lake Malawi)

Part G Draw and label the following rivers and shade them light blue:
- Congo
- Zambezi
- Orange

Part H Locate and label the following and shade all ocean water dark blue:
- Atlantic Ocean
- Indian Ocean

Part I Draw and label the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn.

Part J Colour all remaining territory grey.

Part K Complete your map with a frame, title, and compass.
BATTLING EBOLA
– FRUSTRATION AND FEAR IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

QUIZ

A. Write the letter that corresponds to the best answer on the line beside each question:

_____ 1. What is the population of DR Congo?
   a) 5 million  
   b) 13 million
   c) 54 million  
   d) 73 million
   e) 92 million

_____ 2. Which organization recently declared a public health emergency in DR Congo?
   a) OXFAM  
   b) International Red Cross
   c) Doctors Without Borders  
   d) The United Nations
   e) World Health Organization

_____ 3. Parts of DR Congo have experienced numerous conflicts between various ______
   a) tribes  
   b) militias
   c) security forces  
   d) religious groups
   e) clans

B. Mark the statements T (True) or F (False). If a statement is True, write one important fact to support it on the line below. If a statement is False, write the words that make it true on the line below.

_____ 4. True or False? DR Congo is the largest country in Africa

_____ 5. True or False? The current Ebola outbreak is the first time this disease has occurred in DR Congo.

_____ 6. True or False? Many people in DR Congo don’t think Ebola is real.

C. Fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.

7. People infected with Ebola first experience ___________________-like symptoms.

8. Ebola is not a highly ___________________ disease.


D. Respond to the following question in paragraph form. (Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.)

As you see it, what does the world need to know about the Ebola crisis in Central Africa? Why? Give reasons to explain your answer.
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✓ Comment page for students to respond to the stories
✓ Links to relevant articles, resources, maps, photos and videos
✓ Suggested activities and a Word Work assignment
One subscription allows all teachers and students access to this site from any Internet-connected device at any time. Available in English and in French, for grades 3 and up.

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Contact us for a sample copy or free demo.
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Did you know...

. . . that each issue of *The Canadian Reader*, *What in the World?* and *Building Bridges* includes a PDF file (complete document) and a Word file (articles and questions only)

Students can complete assignments directly in the word file. Teachers can email the file to students or post it on the Internet. The Word file also allows teachers to:

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- save paper and copying costs and help protect the environment
- promote and encourage students’ computer skills

Password Security

There are three ways to access data from a password protected file:

1) To remove the password, use the Save As command to save a new copy of the file. You can then remove the password by changing the Security settings.

2) Select the data you wish to Copy and then Paste it into a new Word file, or into any another word processing program.

3) You can import the entire Word file into LibreOffice (or another similar program) and then save as a new file.

Google Docs and LibreOffice

- You can easily upload the Word file to Google Docs to share it with students or other teachers.

- You can translate Google Docs into another language (see Tools>Translate document) but you will need to edit the document to suit your requirements. Google Docs can translate into over 100 languages including Spanish, Mandarin, and German.

- LibreOffice is a free alternate to Microsoft Office and offers the same functionality. It’s easy to install and use.
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When I have kids in grade 4/5 wanting to know when the next issue is coming, even in December and June, that’s when I know I have an excellent resource.

A. Eisler, Burnaby, BC

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B. Thibodeau, Saskatoon, SK

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D. Faerber, Pembroke, ON
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