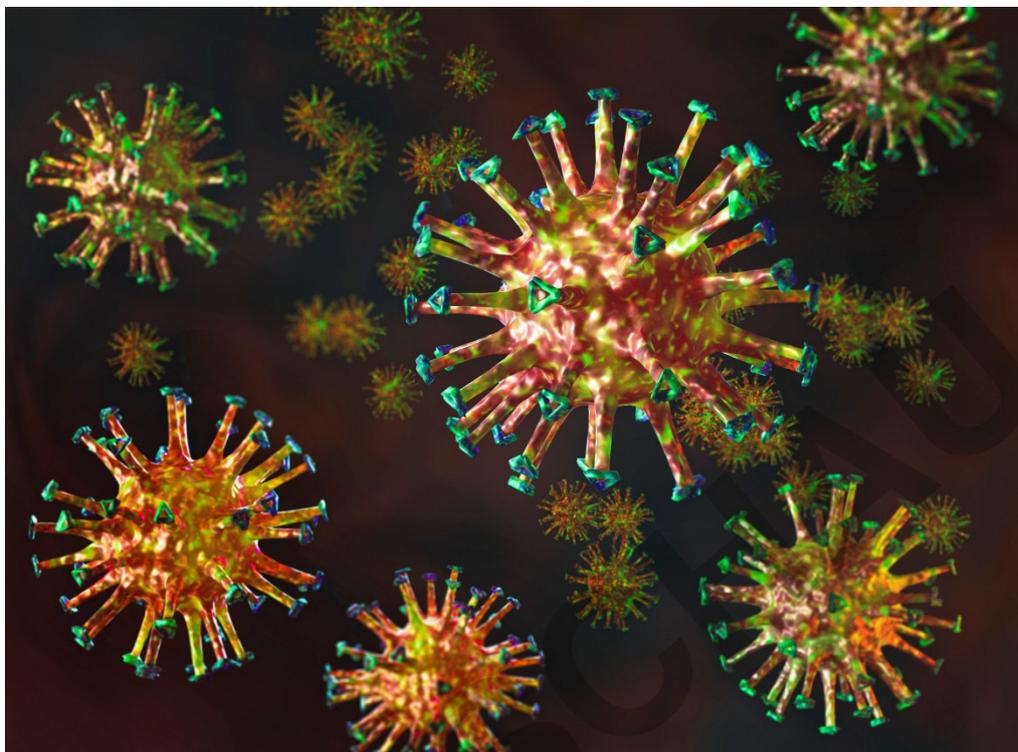


Current topics in short

COVID-19 – #StayAtHome

Carmen Müntzenberg, Thürnthenning



© Jonathan Kitchen/DigitalVision

Homeschooling, Social Distancing, Quarantäne – Das Coronavirus legt die Welt lahm. Aber was ist das überhaupt für ein Virus und warum ist es so gefährlich? Warum müssen wir Abstand halten? Warum dürfen wir unsere Eltern und Großeltern nicht besuchen? In diesen kurzen, direkt zu Hause einsetzbaren Materialien erarbeiten Ihre Schülerinnen und Schüler die Geschichte von Pandemien sowie Grundlagen des Coronavirus und Maßnahmen der Regierungen. In einem weiteren Schritt wenden die Lernenden ihr Wissen in Cartoonbeschreibungen und -interpretationen an.

KOMPETENZPROFIL

Klassenstufe: 9–13

Kompetenzen: 1. Leseverstehen: einem Zeitungsartikel relevante Informationen entnehmen, Infografiken und Cartoons verstehen; 2. Schreiben: eigene Standpunkte in *Comments* und *Discussions* vertreten, kreatives Schreiben (E-Mails), Cartoonbeschreibungen und Analysen

Thematische Bereiche: *society, politics, globalisation*, Pandemie, Epidemie, Coronavirus,

Medien: Texte, Zeitungsartikel, Infografiken, Cartoons



netzwerk
lernen

Abiabit Gymnasium Englisch April 2020

zur Vollversion

M 1

Pandemics – a history

Find out about the history of viruses and bacteria causing worldwide pandemics and discuss the outbreak of coronavirus with reference to this information.



Tasks

1. Read online about the difference between an epidemic and a pandemic. Use this source to write a short definition of both terms. Also include the origin of the terms and define a dividing line between them.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/epidemic-vs-pandemic-difference>

2. Look at the timetable depicting the history of pandemics.

- a) Develop a grid that includes the name of the disease, when it spread around the globe, and how many people died. Take into consideration only those pandemics that caused more than a million fatalities.

<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/history-of-pandemics-deadliest/> (26.03.2020)

- b) Black death – Spanish flu – Coronavirus. About 42,000 people die daily from coronavirus today (1st April 2020). Write a short statement, by taking account of what you have written in your grid. Assume the figures stay constant.

Source: <https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/1103240/umfrage/entwicklung-der-welt-weiten-todesfaelle-aufgrund-des-coronavirus/>

3. One reason for the spread of pandemics is travel and modern mobility. Comment on whether health tests should generally be included in security checks at all airports.



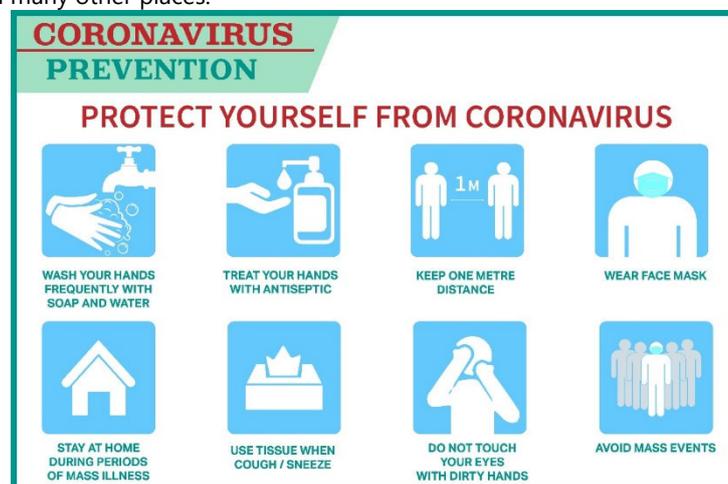
M 2

Corona – everything you need to know

Get important information on coronavirus and what you can do to prevent further spreading.

Tasks

1. Read the following article from the computer magazine *wired*. Sum up the main aspects.
<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/china-coronavirus>
2. Do some online research to find out the latest news and figures concerning the virus. Compare the current figures to the ones in the article and interpret the difference.
3. Explain why so many pictograms like these can be found online, in newspapers, at supermarkets and many other places.



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M 3

Society in pictures – working with cartoons

Coronavirus has brought many changes for society. Some of them can be depicted in cartoons.

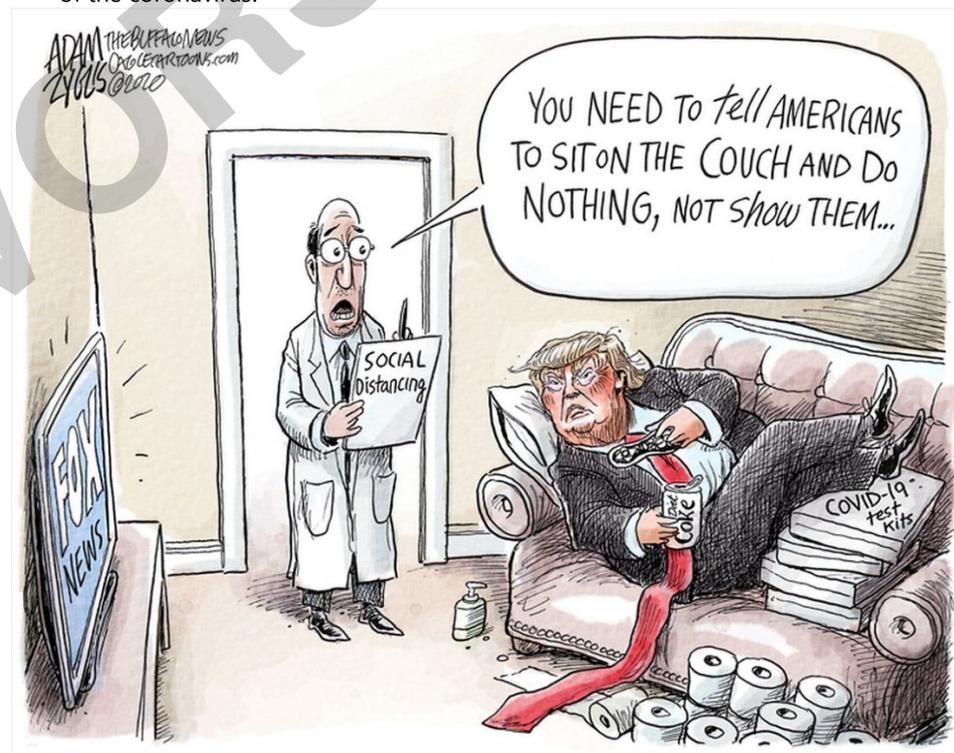
Tasks

1. Describe, interpret and comment on this cartoon. How and why does the cartoonist use the image of Superman?



© Rick McKee

2. Describe and analyse the cartoon and elaborate on the role of heads of states in the times of the coronavirus.



© Adam Zyglis

| | |
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| | – the incubation period of an illness often varies from its period of contagiousness |
|--|--|

Erwartungshorizont (M 2)

Task 1: Summary of the *wired* article

The text *What is coronavirus and what happens now it is pandemic* focuses on the origin of the disease, its symptoms, on how far it has spread and on how countries are handling the situation. It was on 31st December that the World Health Organization (WHO) first heard of the until then unknown virus from China. The Chinese government had located the outbreak in the district of Wuhan, which then was put under quarantine. It is supposed that the disease originated from a seafood market in Wuhan. Other corona viruses known to scientists have shown similar patterns, especially their ability to jump from animals to humans who then transmit them to other humans. The official name of the disease is Sars-CoV-2, because it causes severe acute respiratory problems. Other symptoms connected to this type of the coronavirus are a fever and a dry cough. The incubation period averages between 5 to 10 days. Mostly, the symptoms are mild, but especially with older patients, or people who have existing health issues, there have been many severe and deadly cases.

As of now, there is no medicine nor vaccine (it may take at least another 18 months before it is developed), countries have been taking different measures to slow down the spread of the illness. Mostly, they have shut down their stores and public places and people are only allowed to leave their homes to go to work or to do essential grocery shopping. In order to limit contact between people, it is not allowed to visit people other than one's family, or meet up with more than one other person at the same time in many countries.

Besides the outbreak in China, several other countries like Italy, Iran and Spain have been severely hit by the disease. Another hotspot can be found in the USA. All in all, there have been 492.603 confirmed cases globally and 22,184 deaths, according to the John Hopkins University. Although the WHO was reluctant to call the epidemic a pandemic at first in order to avoid hysterical behaviour and fear, it decided to call it a pandemic on 11th March.

While other countries are still seeing an immense increase in cases, China's infection rates are declining. On 17th March only 39 cases were recorded. Some other countries, like South Korea, did a very good job testing its population and avoiding contagion.

The biggest danger for those countries which are over the first infection wave is now the re-importation of the virus by travelling people.

Task 2: Online research

Individual results

Task 3: Reason for pictograms/infographics

The function of a pictogram/an infographic is to arouse interest among readers and to give information in an easy way so that the reader understands the important aspects. Everyone, whether they can read or not, whether they are educated or not and whether they are old or young should be able to understand the message right away. Especially with the spread of a disease, pictograms and infographics can help to illustrate how to protect oneself and others. Many people are afraid of catching the virus, so these short texts and visualisations help people to protect themselves, but also to calm themselves down. This is especially true for new situations that people are not familiar with, such as social distancing, and when many people feel helpless and get hysterical easily. If pictograms/infographics show how to behave and what to do, for