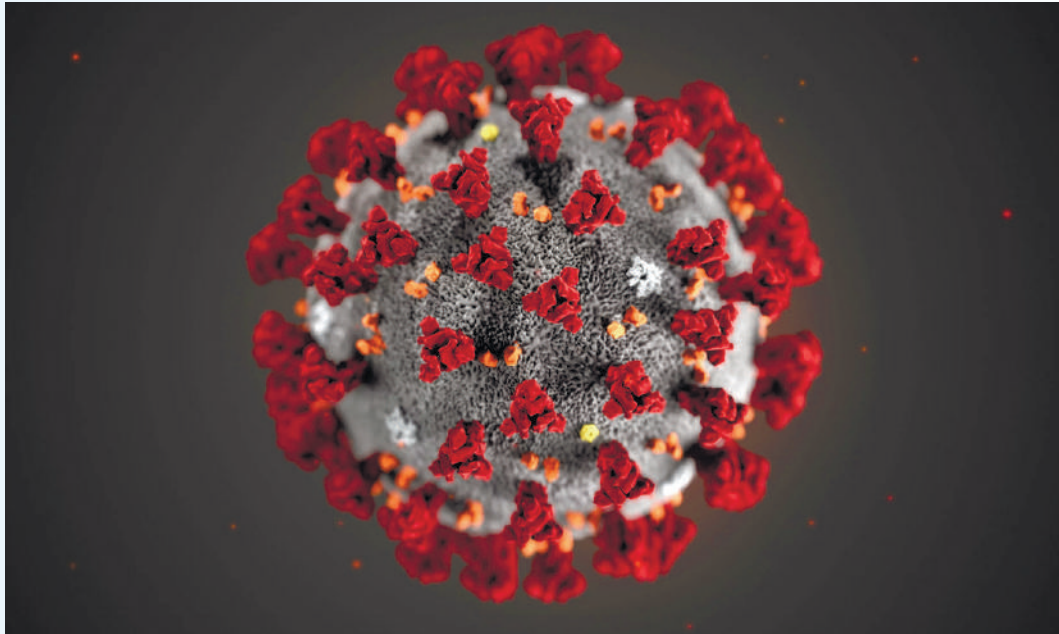


Coronavirus (a worksheet)

Activity 1

Look at the picture and discuss the questions:

1. This is a picture of coronavirus. Can you guess why it is called in such a way?



2. What do you know about coronavirus from mass media?

3. Do you agree that it was created artificially and spread to undermine Chinese economy?

4. Look at the pictures and express your opinion whether fear can also be protective.



Activity 2

Read the text and answer the questions.



How Global Media Covers the Coronavirus

For weeks, the coronavirus has been covered by news outlets around the world. Television channels have been **flooded with information** about the **outbreak** that originated in China with live updates. The media has **diligently** reported on the number of deaths, infected patients as well as possible causes of the virus.

But media analysts also say the coverage has been **uneven** around the world, including in the United States, and has included sensational aspects.

"Attention to how media messages address the virus, its transmission and risk varied significantly across types of coverage and by the nation that produces it," says Katie Foss, professor of media studies at the School of Journalism and Strategic Media at Middle Tennessee State University. "U.S. **coverage** has been **inflammatory**, particularly across social media and other **unsubstantiated** sources, which are unfortunately often taken as fact."

In other parts of the world, the media exploited the unusual origin of the virus that jumped from animals to people. When scientists revealed that the likely source of the coronavirus are bats, a British tabloid, the Daily Mail, published a story of a Chinese woman eating one such mammal.

"**Footage** purporting to show a Chinese woman eating a whole bat at a fancy restaurant has gone viral as the country is ravaged by a new deadly virus believed to have come from the flying mammals," the Daily Mail wrote.

In France, newspaper Le Courrier picard published on its Jan. 26 cover a story on the coronavirus outbreak with the headline "The Yellow **Peril**". The media outlet, as well as its coverage, has been highly criticized on Twitter for "**uninhibited** racism" and its headline having crossed "a line." French Asians have taken to social media to express their anger and created the hashtag #JeNeSuisPasUnVirus (#IAmNotAVirus). Le Courrier picard later apologized in a note, saying the piece was meant to be an **op-ed** whose headline also carried a question mark.

"We apologize to anyone who may have been sincerely shocked," the newspaper said. "We will be twice as careful in the future."

In Germany, Der Spiegel, a popular center-left German weekly magazine, faced similar criticism after publishing a cover on the coronavirus outbreak presenting an Asian man wearing a protective suit and a mask, and looking at his phone. The headline read "Made in China. When globalization becomes a deadline danger."

By Sintia Radu from USnews.
Source: www.usnews.com

1. What is wrong about covering news about coronavirus in the media?
2. What is the possible origin of the disease?
3. Why were French and German news sources criticized?
4. Comment on the last sentence of this article. Agree or disagree? Why/Why not?

Activity 3

Read the text again and match the words with their definitions.

to flood with	part of a film showing a particular event
outbreak	behaving or expressing yourself freely without worrying about what other people think
diligently	the reporting of news and sport in the media
coverage	in a way that shows care and effort in your work or duties
inflammatory	to become or make something become available in a place in large numbers
footage	intended to cause very strong feelings of anger
uninhibited	the sudden start of something unpleasant, especially violence or a disease
op-ed	not proved to be true by evidence
unsubstantiated	serious danger
peril	the page in a newspaper opposite the editorial page that contains comment on the news and articles on particular subjects

Make up sentences using these words.

Activity 4

Comment on the opinions concerning the situation with coronavirus development:



Optimistic prediction

- “One scenario is that we go through a pandemic,” as the current outbreak may become, said Columbia’s Morse. “Then, depending what the virus does, it could quite possibly settle down into a respiratory illness that comes back seasonally.”
- It’s still possible that quarantines and travel bans will first halt the outbreak and then eradicate the microbe, and the world will never see 2019-nCoV again, as epidemiologist Dr. Mike Ryan, head of health emergencies at the World Health Organization, told STAT on Saturday.

Pessimistic prediction

- “Independent self-sustaining outbreaks [of 2019-nCoV] in major cities globally could become inevitable because of substantial exportation of pre-symptomatic cases,” scientists at the University of Hong Kong concluded in a paper published in The Lancet last week.
- “It’s not too soon to talk about this,” said Dr. Amesh Adalja, an infectious disease specialist at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. “We know that respiratory viruses are especially difficult to control, so I think it’s very possible that the current outbreak ends with the virus becoming endemic.”

from [Experts envision two scenarios if the new coronavirus isn't contained](#) by Sharon Begley

Activity 5

Watch the [video](#) (0:00 - 02:11) and choose the correct options:



1. Coronavirus was called Covid – 19, because
 - a. it started in 19 provinces of China.
 - b. it started on the 19th of December.
 - c. it started last year.
2. The death toll is
 - a. nearly 100 people
 - b. slightly more than 100 people
 - c. around 150 people
3. The situation seems to be a little bit optimistic because
 - a. the virus has been localized.
 - b. the amount of the infected is decreasing.
 - c. the doctors have found a vaccine.
4. According to WHO official the virus can cause
 - a. world chaos
 - b. economic recession.
 - c. huge negative consequences.
5. The special trucks in Wuhan province
 - a. spread disinfectants in the streets.
 - b. spread free of charge drugs.
 - c. collect the sick in the streets.
6. The doctors in the rural areas can get infected because
 - a. the number of the infected is high enough.
 - b. of shortage of special equipment.
 - c. they are not qualified enough to cope with the problem.

Activity 6

Discuss the questions. Use new words from Activity 3.

1. Are you personally afraid of coronavirus?
2. What preventive measures do you take not to get infected?
3. What is your prediction as for situation with coronavirus development?

