

Lesson ideas for geography teachers to share: Smithsonian

Go to

The Smithsonian Institution – National Museum of Natural History

<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour/current-exhibits>

Scroll down to the thirteenth subtitle, Outbreak: Epidemics in a connected world and answer the following questions.

1. Start with Outbreak 1. The first word you will see in the exhibit 'Nipah' – look up the symptoms, the animal it circulates in and the last major outbreak of this viral infection. The Nipah virus was first recognised in Malaysia in 1999, it circulates amongst fruit bats and the last outbreak was in Kerala, India, in 2018.
2. Click on the right arrow on the far right of the toolbar and you will go through to Outbreak 2. What does 'One Health' mean? One Health means animals, human and environmental health are all connected, it is a way of seeing how disease outbreaks occur when and where.
3. Click the right arrow, through to Outbreak 3, The International Spread of Disease. Zoom into the SARS information board. What year did SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) strike and where did it originate? 2003 from Guangdong, China.
4. Right click through to Outbreak 4. This section is on Responding to Outbreaks. Ebola struck West Africa in 2014, what is the advisory quote on the wall for future pandemics? Response to disease outbreaks must be quick, effective and cooperative.
5. Skip through the next section to Outbreak and zoom in on the Solution: Eradicating Smallpox information board. Smallpox is the only human infectious disease that has been completely eradicated, when was the last known case – and in which country? 1977 in Somalia.
6. How many people died from smallpox in the twentieth century? Smallpox killed half a billion people.
7. In Outbreak 7 what does the quote by Yvette Raphael say and why is this important? 'Where the governments see statistics, I see the faces of my friends.' This is important because personal stories can be lost in endless statistics. A single death can affect many, many people.
8. There are 9 posters on the wall in Outbreak 8; Do Humans Cause Epidemics? The 9 posters each show a different activity which has fuelled the spread of pandemics over the past 100 years, what are they? Animal domestication, The rise of Agriculture, Crowded together, Expanded trade, Coming to America, Colonising the Congo, War at world, Factory farming, A dangerous trade.