


CLASSROOM  
**READY**  **MANITOBA**  
**Monthly News**

FOR GRADES 8, 9 & 10

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MARCH 2020



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## MANITOBA

# Pipeline Plans May Be Stunted



An oil expansion committee set up by Saskatchewan's provincial government is looking into the idea of shipping oil through a port in Manitoba. They will need to convince a lot of opponents if they want to make their idea a reality.

Alberta and Saskatchewan have no shortage of oil, but they do have difficulty getting their oil out of province and into customers' hands. Alberta's pipelines are often full, and environmental concerns have prevented oil companies from building new ones.

As part of Saskatchewan's plan to grow its population and economy, a committee was set up to investigate expansion of its oil industry. One of the committee's ideas was to transport oil to a port in Churchill, Manitoba, where it can then be shipped to international buyers. The ships would start in the Hudson's Bay, head up to Arctic waters, and then out to sea and south to the U.S. The committee suggested that they could build a pipeline or send oil to Churchill by train. There is a railway line that used

to carry fuel supplies to the Churchill port so they could be shipped to Arctic communities.

Nothing has been formally proposed yet, but Manitoba's Minister of Agriculture and Resources said that any proposal would have to pass an environmental assessment and consultations with both Indigenous groups and local communities.

The Director of Manitoba's Wilderness Committee said that he opposed the idea. The boggy tundra and **muskeg** might not be stable enough for a pipeline. As the wet ground shifts with the seasons, it would put pressure on the pipeline and increase the risk of an oil spill. Boggy conditions already cause train delays for the existing rail line.

The region is also home to polar bears and beluga whales. Development of the shipping port could threaten the natural **ecosystem**. An oil spill could devastate it.

Additionally, Churchill is a large centre for **eco-tourism**. If the region became known as an oil shipping hub, there is the

possibility that it could impact the eco-tourism industry.

A pipeline was proposed to ship oil through Churchill back in 2013. Environmental groups and Manitoba's NDP government rejected the plan. There is no guarantee that a pipeline to Churchill would be rejected again, but according to Manitoba's Minister of Agriculture and Resources, it would be difficult to pass. ★



## DID YOU KNOW

Alberta produces 80 percent of Canada's oil, and Saskatchewan produces 11 percent, but this trend is changing as Saskatchewan opens up to more oil drilling.

## WORD POWER

**MUSKEG:** A bog found in North America, from the Cree and Ojibwe terms for "grassy wetlands."

**ECOSYSTEM:** An area with living things (organisms, animals, plants) that interact with each other and their environment.

**ECO-TOURISM:** Travel within places for their natural environments in a way that does not damage the local ecosystem.

## NATIONAL

# Divisions over B.C. Pipeline

Construction has started on Coastal GasLink—a 670-kilometre long pipeline running through northern B.C. The pipeline will carry natural gas from Dawson Creek in British Columbia's northeast region to the town of Kitimat on the West Coast. The building of the pipeline has caused tension and conflict. The pipeline passes through a number of Indigenous territories, and not everyone wants it there.

A group of people from the five Wet'suwet'en First Nation clans have set up camps within their **traditional territories**. They are camped near the construction area in protest against the pipeline.

The protestors are led by some of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs. Hereditary chiefs are leaders who inherit their role by being born the sons and daughters of previous chiefs. Together, the chiefs and dozens of other protestors are saying the pipeline doesn't belong on their lands. They believe it will harm the environment and disrupt their way of life. They believe they should have the right to say who

can and cannot enter their lands.

In December, the protestors set up roadblocks to prevent pipeline workers from getting to construction sites. A judge found their actions to be illegal, and the RCMP were given orders to take down the roadblocks.

A number of environmental groups, as well as a UN committee to end racism, have expressed support for the protestors' cause. They say Indigenous groups must give their consent for the project to proceed.

The pipeline company points out that all affected First Nations communities were consulted according to Canadian law. In fact, all 20 elected First Nation councils along the pipeline's path signed agreements in support of the project.

Several Indigenous groups have expressed vocal support for the project. They say it is an opportunity for jobs and economic growth that will benefit their communities. They believe it provides a path toward ending poverty on reserves.

In late January, the B.C. government agreed to meet with



the protesting Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs for seven days of talks. Both sides say they want to find a peaceful way to resolve the situation. The meetings will be known as "Wiggus," the Wet'suwet'en word for respect. ★



## DID YOU KNOW

The Coastal GasLink pipeline is being built so that natural gas can be exported from B.C.'s West Coast to countries in Asia. The pipeline will cost \$6.6 billion.

To view videos, go to:  
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/bmow>

Video



## WORD POWER

**TRADITIONAL TERRITORY:** Lands that have been used by a particular Indigenous group for traditional purposes, such as camps, hunting, and gathering.

## INTERNATIONAL

# Coronavirus Alarm Grows

There is a new virus making people sick, and it is creating concern around the world. It is generally being called the coronavirus, because it comes from the family of viruses called coronaviruses. Other illness-causing coronaviruses include the common cold and SARS. The scientific name for the new virus is 2019nCoV. On February 11, the World Health Organization named it COVID-19.

COVID-19 is believed to have originally come from bats. Some kinds of coronavirus are able to jump from one species to another. In this case, COVID-19 is thought to have crossed from bats to snakes to humans.

The virus was first discovered in December when some people living in the city of Wuhan, in central China, became ill. Since then the virus has spread across China, resulting in over 17,000 cases and hundreds of deaths. There have also been increasing numbers of cases in other countries, including Canada.

Countries have taken steps to prevent the virus' spread. In China, there have been city

lockdowns and severe travel restrictions. Measures taken by other countries include screening travellers, **quarantines**, and ensuring medical facilities are prepared.

The virus causes fever, coughing, and difficulty breathing. In some cases, it can lead to **pneumonia**. In extreme cases, it can cause death. Because this is a new virus causing illness in people, there is a great deal of uncertainty and concern. Some are worried this could become a global **epidemic**.

Some are cautioning against panic or alarm. COVID-19 appears to have a lower fatality rate than SARS, although it is more easily spread. Like the flu, extreme cases have occurred mainly among elderly patients, or people weakened by other ailments such as asthma. It also appears the coronavirus is spread like the flu—through close contact.

An important difference is that there is no vaccine for COVID-19. Scientists believe it may take more than a year before one can be developed. Another concern is the belief that the virus has



an incubation period of up to 14 days. A person can carry around the virus for that long without knowing they are ill.

Health officials say the best thing people can do is wash their hands regularly, especially before touching their mouth, nose, or eyes. They should avoid close contact with people who seem ill and cover their own mouths and nose when coughing and sneezing. ★



## DID YOU KNOW

COVID-19 stands for Coronavirus Disease, 2019.

To view videos, go to:  
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/bmow>

Video



## WORD POWER

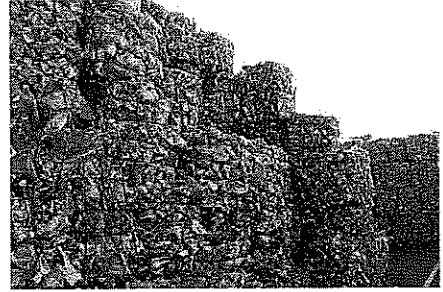
**QUARANTINE:** When someone is placed in an isolated environment for a certain amount of time to make sure they don't have an illness that can be spread to others.

**PNEUMONIA:** An infection of the lungs that causes difficulty breathing.

**EPIDEMIC:** A widespread occurrence of a disease.

## ENVIRONMENT

# Recycling Woes



**M**ost communities in Canada have a recycling program. You separate the plastic, paper, cardboard, and glass from the organics and other garbage and put it in a different bin for curbside collection. But what happens to everything after it has been collected? Canadian cities may have to find a new solution.

Normally, the items we throw into our recycling bins are brought to sorting facilities where they are separated into different materials and then further sorted into different types of plastic. The sorting facilities then sell the plastic waste to recycling plants, many of which are in China. Recycling plants make new plastic material to sell to **manufacturers**.

The plants in China have had a lot of problems with the plastic waste they received. Bottles with adhesive labels and containers lined with food residue cannot be recycled. The plants would take what they could use and burn the rest. To reduce pollution, China banned plastic waste imports in 2018. The recycling industry has

struggled ever since.

Recycling plants around the world now have a **surplus** of plastic waste. Some recycling plants stopped buying waste altogether, while others started paying lower prices. The number of different types of plastic has also made it more expensive to sort recyclables. Manufacturers have also been reluctant to buy recycled plastic because it is more expensive than new plastic. All of this has made governments worry about what to do with the mounting plastic waste.

Some cities in Canada have restricted the types of plastics that they collect for recycling. The federal government plans to ban single-use plastic items like straws and shopping bags by the year 2021.

Organizations like Greenpeace have **lobbied** for laws that require more environmentally friendly packaging. California made a law that requires all garbage bags to be made of 10 percent recycled plastic. This law created more demand for recycled soft plastic, which has helped some recycling plants.

British Columbia implemented a program called “Extended Producer Responsibility” (EPR) in which the companies that produced plastic waste had to start paying part of the cost to manage it. Since the EPR program was brought in, plastic waste decreased and the use of recycled plastics went up. This has inspired other provinces to look into EPR programs to help reduce plastic waste. ★



## DID YOU KNOW

Each year, Canada discards about 2.8 million tonnes of plastic. That's the equivalent of 24 CN Towers!

To view videos, go to:  
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/bmow>

Video



## WORD POWER

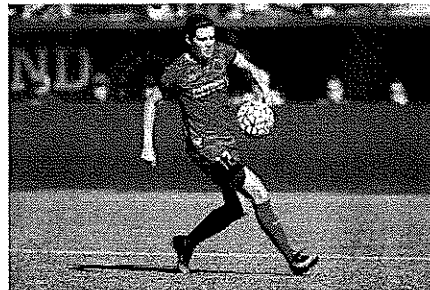
**MANUFACTURERS:** Companies that make products to sell.

**SURPLUS:** Excess supply; more than what is needed.

**LOBBIED:** Tried to influence the government to pass a bill or show favour to a certain cause.

## FEATURE

# Soccer Star Sets World Record



**C**hristine Sinclair just made history. During a game against St. Kitts and Nevis, the captain of Canada's national women's soccer team scored two goals: her 184th and 185th ever. Those goals made her the world's all-time leader in goals scored during international competition. She passed retired American soccer player Abby Wambach, who held the previous record of 184 international goals.

Sinclair is a proud but humble Canadian from Burnaby, B.C. In an interview with CBC after the accomplishment, Sinclair was quoted saying "I'm a proud Canadian. I'm proud a Canadian's on top of the list, I'm not going to lie."

Sinclair first started playing soccer at the age of four. She joined Team Canada in 2000, at the age of 16. In the 20 years since, she has played 290 matches. She has helped lead Canada through five **FIFA World Cups** and three Summer Olympic Games. Canada won bronze medals at the 2012 and 2016 Olympics.

Sinclair was Canada's flag-

bearer—a significant honour—at the closing ceremonies for the 2012 Olympics in London. She is also the first soccer player appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada, and the first to have her name engraved on Canada's Walk of Fame. She has been named Canada Soccer Player of the Year 14 times.

Despite her accomplishments, Sinclair admits to being quiet and shy. She says she just tries to be a "good Canadian" day after day. She does express a little pride in her "small" part in helping grow soccer's popularity in Canada.

After the St. Kitts game, Sinclair drew praise from family, friends, teammates, and many others. Canada Soccer president Steven Reed and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sent congratulations to Sinclair after the game via social media. So did Wambach, whose record she broke.

Sinclair leads both men and women in goals. The men's goal-scoring leader is Ali Daei of Iran with 109 goals in 149 appearances. Famed men's soccer players Cristiano Ronaldo

and Pele scored 99 and 77 goals respectively.

Sinclair, who is 36-years old, will now turn her attention to helping ensure Canada wins enough games to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics. Those Olympics will be held this summer. There is a good chance Canada will be there—Team Canada is ranked as the eighth best team in the world. ★



## DID YOU KNOW

Sinclair's nickname is "Sinc" or "Sincy."

To view videos, go to:  
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/bmow>

Video



## WORD POWER

**FIFA WORLD CUP:** The premier world soccer tournament, held every four years by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

**MANITOBA**

**Pipeline Plans May Be Stunted**

1. What problem do Alberta and Saskatchewan have?

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2. What was one of the suggestions put forward by the committee?

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3. What would need to happen to any formal proposal?

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4. Why does the Director of Manitoba's Wilderness Committee oppose the idea?

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5. What other concerns are there with the idea?

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**CRITICAL THINKING**

1. Do you think it is a good idea to transport oil to Churchill to be shipped overseas? Explain your answer.

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2. What is special about Churchill, Manitoba?

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**NATIONAL**

**Divisions over B.C. Pipeline**

1. What is Coastal GasLink?

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2. Who are protesting the pipeline?

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3. Why are they protesting the pipeline?

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4. Who supports the protesters? Why?

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5. What does the pipeline company have to say? Who supports the project?

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**CRITICAL THINKING**

1. What are your thoughts on this situation?

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2. What are some ideas for how things could move forward?

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**INTERNATIONAL**

### Coronavirus Alarm Grows

1. What is the new virus that is making people sick?

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2. Where did the virus come from?

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3. Where was the virus first discovered? How has it spread since then?

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4. What steps have been taken to prevent the virus from spreading?

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5. What are the symptoms?

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### CRITICAL THINKING

1. Why are some people so concerned?

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2. What are some ways in which the virus could be contained?

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**ENVIRONMENT**

**Recycling Woes**

1. What happens to the items we throw into our recycling bins?

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2. What problem does China have with the plastic waste they receive? What did they do?

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3. How has the recycling industry struggled since the ban?

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4. How is Canada reacting to the situation?

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5. What program has British Columbia implemented?

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**CRITICAL THINKING**

1. Can you think of some ways to reduce the amount of plastic waste?

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2. Do you think the EPR program is a good idea? Explain your answer.

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**FEATURE**

## Soccer Star Sets World Record

1. How did Christine Sinclair make history?

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2. How long has Sinclair been playing soccer? How long has she been playing for Team Canada?

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3. What has Sinclair achieved in that time?

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4. How does Sinclair describe herself?

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5. What is Sinclair focusing on next?

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### CRITICAL THINKING

1. What does it take to do something for 20 years, and to do well at it?

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2. What makes you proud? Why?

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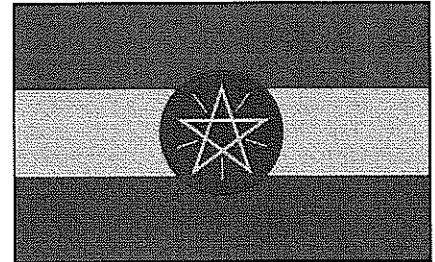
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# Discovering Ethiopia

**E**thiopia is the largest country in eastern Africa, a region known as the Horn of Africa. The size of Ethiopia is five times larger than the U.K. Over 110 million people live in Ethiopia, and over 3.4 million of those people live in Addis Ababa, its capital city. Addis Ababa means “New Flower.” The National Museum of Ethiopia and the National Library and the Archive of Ethiopia can be found there.



Religion has played a large part in shaping the political history in ancient Ethiopia. In the fourth century, Christianity was introduced to the population and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church has served a major role in politics and culture. In the seventh century, Islam was introduced. It is still being practiced by about one third of the population.

Ethiopia was a monarchy until 1936, when Italian forces under Mussolini invaded and occupied the country. Emperor Haile Selassie did not prepare his armies in time to fight off the Italian troops and was exiled. He returned in 1941 to see the Italians surrender and went on to establish his own government. He was removed by the military in 1974, which ended the monarchy. Since then, Ethiopia has gone through several political changes, finally becoming the Federal Democratic Republic it is today.

Agriculture makes up most of the country's workforce. Ethiopia produces and exports coffee, legumes, oilseeds, sugar cane, and vegetables. The unofficial trade of cattle, camels, sheep, and goats is important in helping the economy as well. Droughts make growing crops extremely difficult, which has led to poverty. The low food production means people are unable to make enough money to support the high cost of living.

There are about 80 ethnic groups and 100 different spoken languages in Ethiopia. Each ethnic group has their own unique cultural practices.

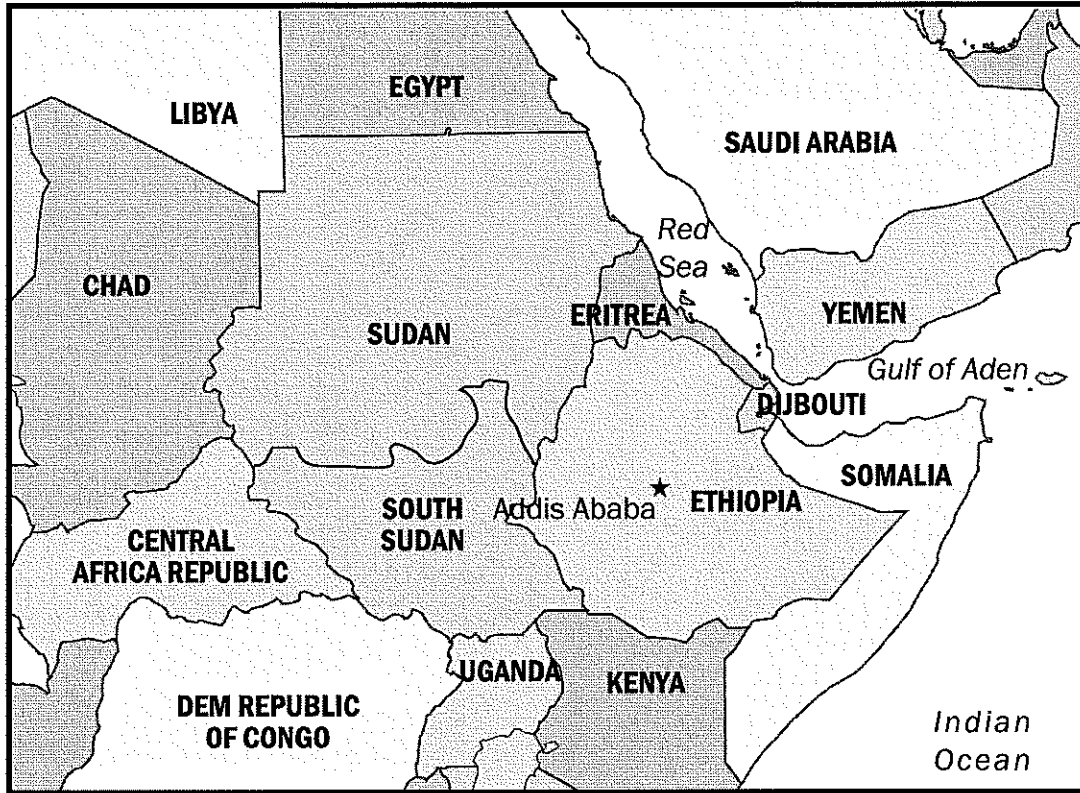
Ethiopia is a beautiful country to visit with lots interesting historical sites. Lalibela is a collection of medieval churches carved out of rock and one of the most famous attractions. Blue Nile Falls, Simien Mountain National Park, and Gondar Castle are also popular attractions that are full of natural beauty and history.

<b>Long form of name:</b>	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
<b>Continent:</b>	Africa
<b>Total Area:</b>	1,104,300 square kilometres
<b>Population:</b>	108,113,150
<b>Official Language(s):</b>	Amharic
<b>Capital City:</b>	Addis Ababa
<b>Chief of State:</b>	President Sahle-Work Zewde
<b>National Anthem:</b>	“Whedefit Gesgeshi Woud Enat Ethiopia” (March Forward, Dear Mother Ethiopia)
<b>Currency:</b>	Ethiopian birr

To view videos, go to:  
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/bmow>



Discovering Ethiopia



1. What is Ethiopia's capital city? What are some facts about it?

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2. How has religion played a large part in shaping the political history in ancient Ethiopia?

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3. How is agriculture important to the economy? What problems do droughts cause?

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# Flu Cases

The table below shows the number of confirmed cases of influenza (the flu) for each flu season. Use this information to answer the questions that follow.

Canadian Seasonal Influenza Totals	# cases
1999-2000	7,027
2000-2001	4,154
2001-2002	6,771
2002-2003	3,517
2003-2004	11,435
2004-2005	12,879
2005-2006	7,422
2006-2007	8,133
2007-2008	12,256
2008-2009	23,376

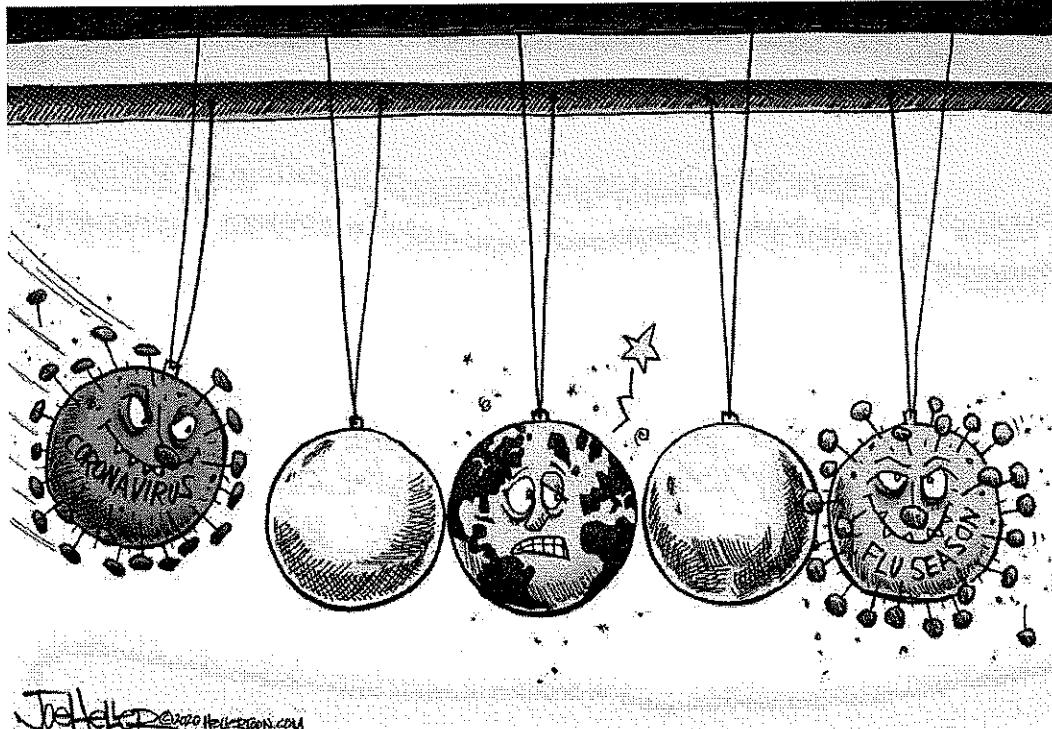
Canadian Seasonal Influenza Totals	# cases
2009-2010	39,018
2010-2011	17,535
2011-2012	12,194
2012-2013	31,737
2013-2014	28,778
2014-2015	43,510
2015-2016	33,559
2016-2017	27,345
2017-2018	55,059
2018-2019	39,192

Source: Health Canada

1. Which season had the highest number of flu cases?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Which season had the lowest number of flu cases?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How many cases of the flu were there in the 2009-2010 flu season?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How many cases of the flu were there in the 2018-2019 flu season?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Which season had 12,194 cases of the flu?  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Political Cartoon

A political cartoon uses images to exaggerate an opinion, often in a humorous way. The main purpose of the cartoon is to show you the artist's point of view on a situation.



For each element in the image above, write a point or two about the element or how it relates to the rest of the image.

1. The balls on either end

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2. The ball in the middle

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3. Put all of the elements together and explain in your own words what the cartoon is saying.

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# Map Activity: Japan

## 1. Locate and label the following countries in capital letters:

JAPAN  
CHINA

NORTH KOREA  
RUSSIA

SOUTH KOREA

## 2. Locate and label the following cities:

Tokyo

Pyongyang

Seoul

## 3. Locate and label the following bodies of salt water:

Pacific Ocean

Sea of Japan

Yellow Sea

## 4. Create a colour legend for your map with the following:

Japan

Other Countries

Salt Water

## 5. Draw and label the compass bearing.

## 6. Label your map:

Japan and Neighbouring Countries



Map Activity: Japan



# Looking at Japan

Japan is part of the continent of Asia. It is an island chain located between the North Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Japan, east of the Korean Peninsula. Japan is slightly smaller than Newfoundland and Labrador at 377,915 square kilometres. Japan is located 36 degrees north of the equator, giving it a climate that varies from tropical in the south to cool temperate in the north. Japan has a population of 125,507,472 (July 2020 estimate) and a currency called the Japanese yen (JPY). It takes about 82 yen to equal one dollar.

Use the map and the information above to answer the following questions.

1. What is the area of Japan?

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2. What is the population of Japan?

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3. What is the capital city of Japan?

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4. What is the currency used in Japan?

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5. What colours are on the flag of Japan?

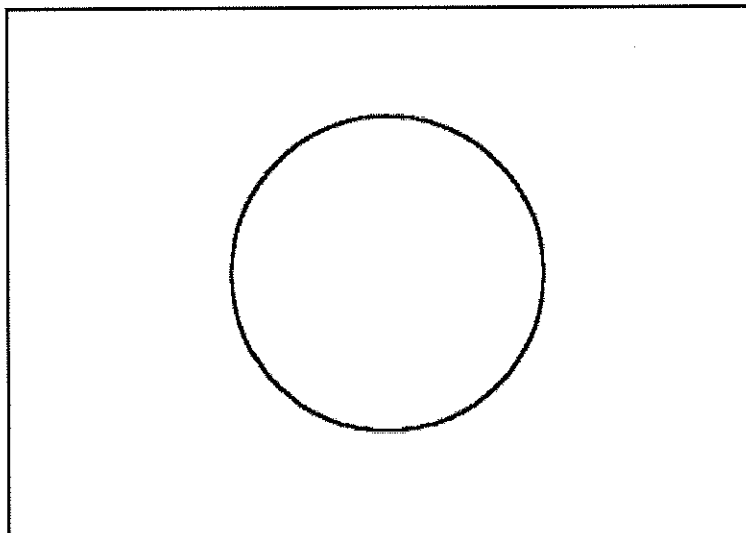
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6. Which countries border Japan?

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7. Colour the flag as follows:

White with a large red disk in the centre.



# Monthly News Quiz

## DIVISIONS OVER B.C. PIPELINE

1. How many First Nation clans are protesting the pipeline project?  
A. 5                      B. 12                      C. 20                      D. 32
2. The protestors are led by some of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The pipeline company points out that all affected First Nations communities were consulted according to Canadian law.  
True              False

## CORONAVIRUS ALARM GROWS

1. COVID-19 is believed to have originally come from pigs.  
True              False
2. The virus was first discovered in December when some people living in the city of Wuhan, in central \_\_\_\_\_, became ill.
3. The incubation period of COVID-19 is believed to be up to how many days?  
A. 3                      B. 7                      C. 14                      D. 21

## RECYCLING WOES

1. Normally, the items we throw into our recycling bins are brought to \_\_\_\_\_ where they are separated into different materials.
2. Which country banned plastic waste imports in 2018?  
A. Canada                      B. Russia                      C. The United States                      D. China
3. Ontario implemented a program in which the companies that produced plastic waste had to start paying part of the cost to manage it.  
True              False