

**Week Two**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Desoto County  
Schools**

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Week 2

### Distance Learning

You are living through an unprecedented moment in history—right now! Today, tomorrow, and the days that follow will be captured in history books. Someday, you will share stories with your children and grandchildren about living through this time. Because these days are historical, it is critical that we not let these events pass without capturing how they affect you, your family, your school, and your community.

Since you will be “schooling” from home, I will describe here the **daily** assigned work to be done outside the classroom. Here are your daily writing and reading requirements:

### Daily Writing:

**You will be asked to write a page (or more) a day**, capturing your thoughts, questions, comments, and concerns about the events that are unfolding. I want you to capture this history—your history—any way you’d like. Below are some suggestions for your daily writing. Feel free to generate your own thinking.

Some possibilities for daily writing:

- Continue to capture how this virus has disrupted your school year—including sporting events, concerts, assemblies, dances.
- Continue to discuss how your daily life has been disrupted.
- Continue to share the effect it has had on your friends and family.
- Continue to respond to any seed about the crisis you find interesting. A “seed” can be an article, a TV broadcast, a Tedtalk, a tweet, a photograph, a podcast, a film, an Instagram (or another online) post, a TikTok video, a political cartoon—anything that spurs some thinking about the crisis.
- Think about drawing or sketching your ideas and writing from those.
- Write about how things might be different or return to the same after the crisis ends.
- Write a letter to your future self.

Again, be creative as you decide how best to chronicle your thinking. What is the best way to capture this historical moment? You decide. Be creative!

Take risks. Be honest. Try to create writing that you will be interested in re-reading years from now. Chronicle your thinking as we navigate these uncertain times.

## Daily Reading:

Find a book to read. Any book that interests you. Your choice. You are asked to read this book for 30 or more minutes every school day. If a book is not available, any kind of reading will count. This includes newspapers, magazines, etc. **You are asked to time your reading every day** and to track the time you spend reading on a self-made chart. The chart you create can be hand-written or created digitally, and it might look like this example:

Date	Book	Pages read	Time spent reading
3/18	<i>The Hate U Give</i>	22-48	35 minutes
3/19	<i>The Hate U Give</i>	48-68	30 minutes
3/20	<i>The Hate U Give</i>	68-90	40 minutes
3/23			
3/24			
3/25			

The goal here is 30 minutes a day of sustained, uninterrupted reading. I know that may be difficult for some of you, as you may face interruptions at home, but it is critical that you do your best to find uninterrupted reading time as a means to building your stamina.

## Daily Lessons:

The included materials provide instruction for 5 days of work.

Follow the directions provided for each section of the lesson.

### “Why everything is closing for coronavirus: It’s called ‘flattening the curve’”

To support comprehension, it is important for students to recognize both a reader's purpose and an author's purpose.

This means students must read with a questioning stance:

*Why am I reading this? What do I want to get out of this text?*

*What does the author want me to know? Why has this been written, and for whom?*

#### Day 1

- Read the title and the first and last paragraph to look for clues for the Central Idea.
- Then skim the article for details that support this idea.
- Underline the sentence or phrase in the passage that most closely relates to the Central Idea you found.

Central Idea

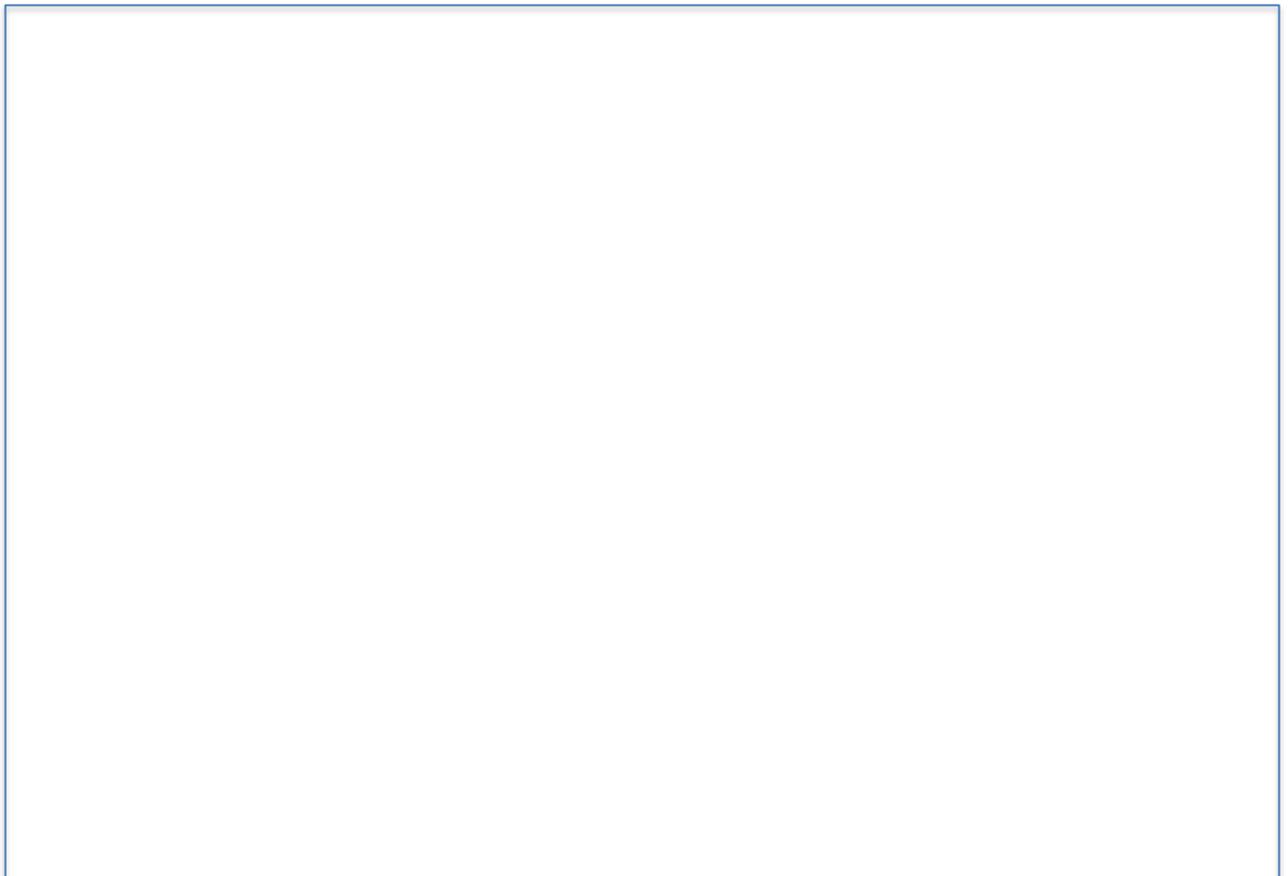
Supporting Detail	Supporting Detail	Supporting Detail

## Day 2

- Reread the article from Day 1
- Look back over the chart from Day 1 and determine if you included the most important details
- Add any other details or remove any that do not directly support the Central Idea
- Remember that a summary should be absent of any opinions. Delete any opinions from your chart.
- Write your own summary. It should include a topic sentence, any details from the text to support the Central Idea and closing statement. Use the following paragraph as a model:

**"Navy to End Ban on Women in Submarines" is an article that acknowledges it is time to allow women on naval submarines. The Navy hopes to do this by allowing women to board submarines in 2011. The first women will probably be officers, because officers already have separate living quarters. This is easier and cheaper than trying to restructure a submarine. Also, the plan includes the rule of never being less than two women on a submarine at one time. To sum up, the nation looks forward to seeing women as submarine commanders in the near future.**

**Your Summary:**



### Day Three

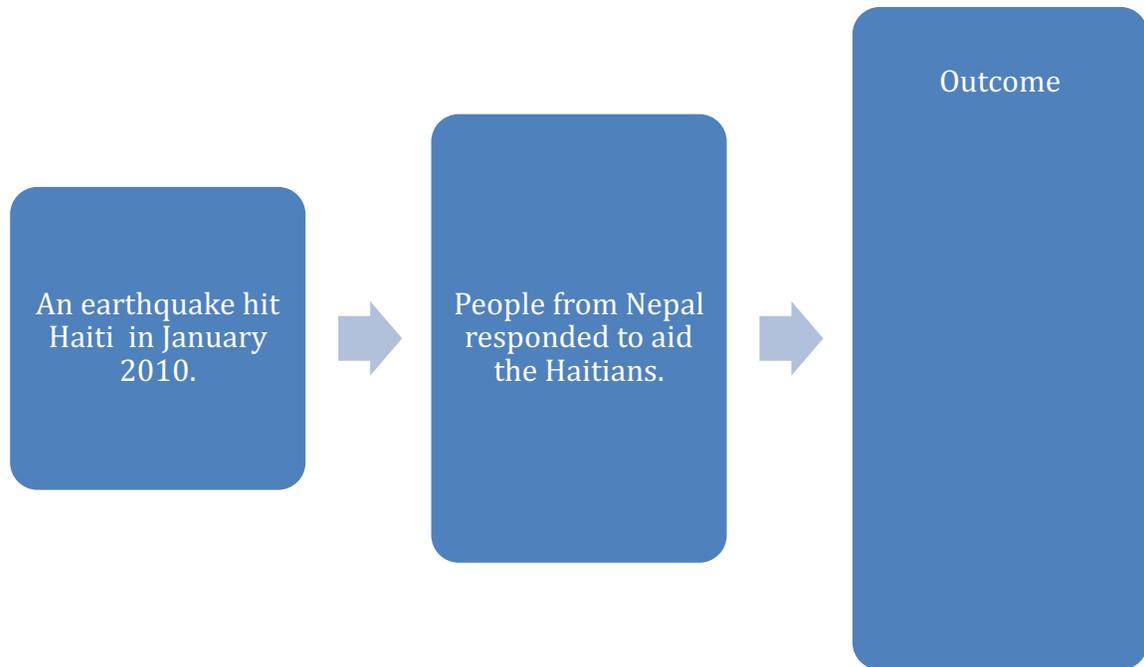
#### “ How cholera spread so quickly through Haiti in 2010”

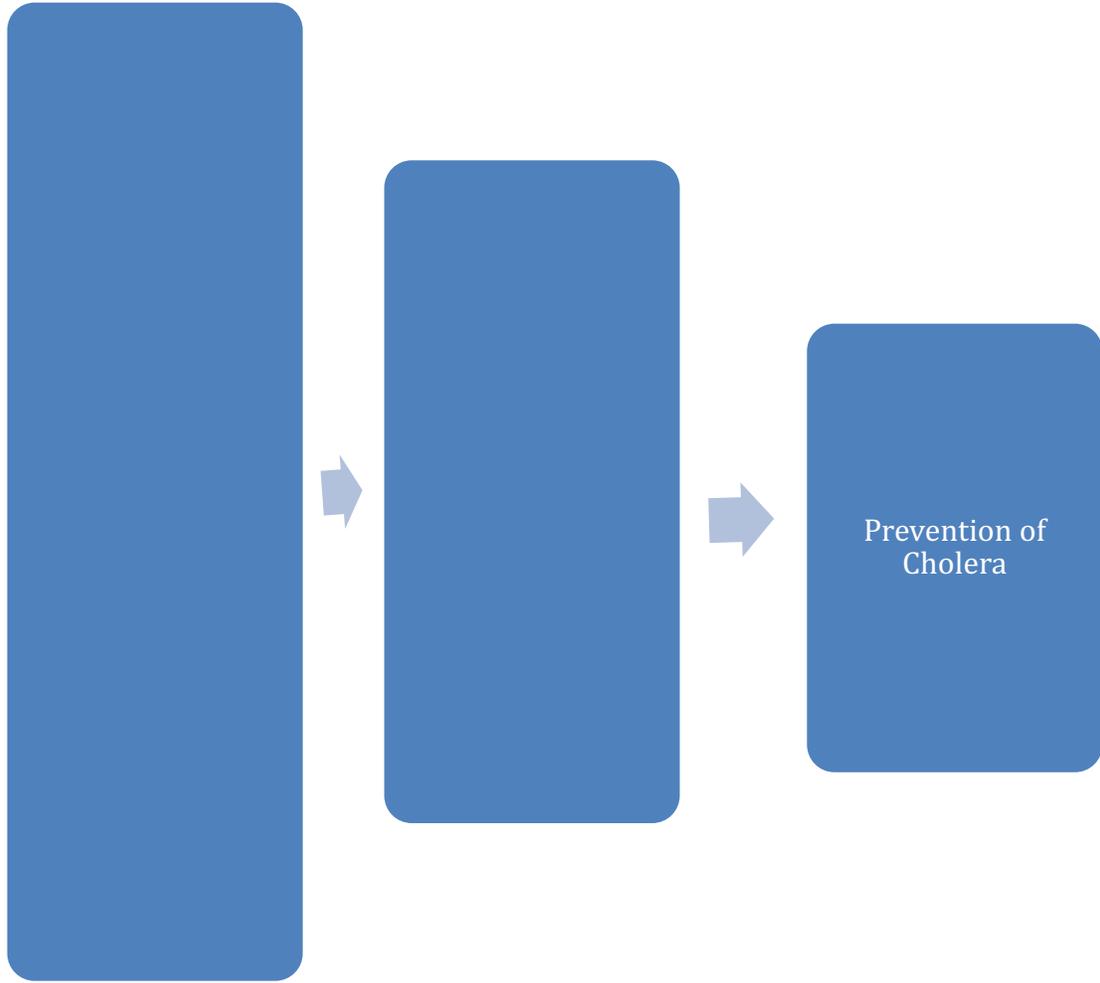
- Read the article with a questioning stance.
- Read the 1<sup>st</sup> and last paragraph and the title, and determine a Central Idea.
- Skim the article for important details that support the Central Idea.
- Use text evidence and what you already know to make inferences by completing the chart below:

<b>Text Evidence</b>	<b>What you already know</b>	<b>Inference</b>
“The outbreak spread quickly through the country. The cases in Haiti along resulted in an 85 percent increase in the number of cholera cases worldwide.”	What do you already know about the spread of disease?	

**Day Four:**

- Reread the article from Day Three.
- Look for interactions of ideas, events, and individuals to help you better understand the cholera outbreak in Haiti. These will help you to answer the following questions:
  - **What led to the cholera outbreak after the earthquake in Haiti?**
  - **How can cholera be prevented?**





**Day Five:**

- Write a letter to a friend or family member to explain why it is important “flatten the curve”.
- Use evidence from the cholera article to help them understand how easily some illnesses can spread.

# Why everything is closing for coronavirus: It's called "flattening the curve"

By Forbes, adapted by Newsela staff on 03.17.20

Word Count **765**

Level **830L**

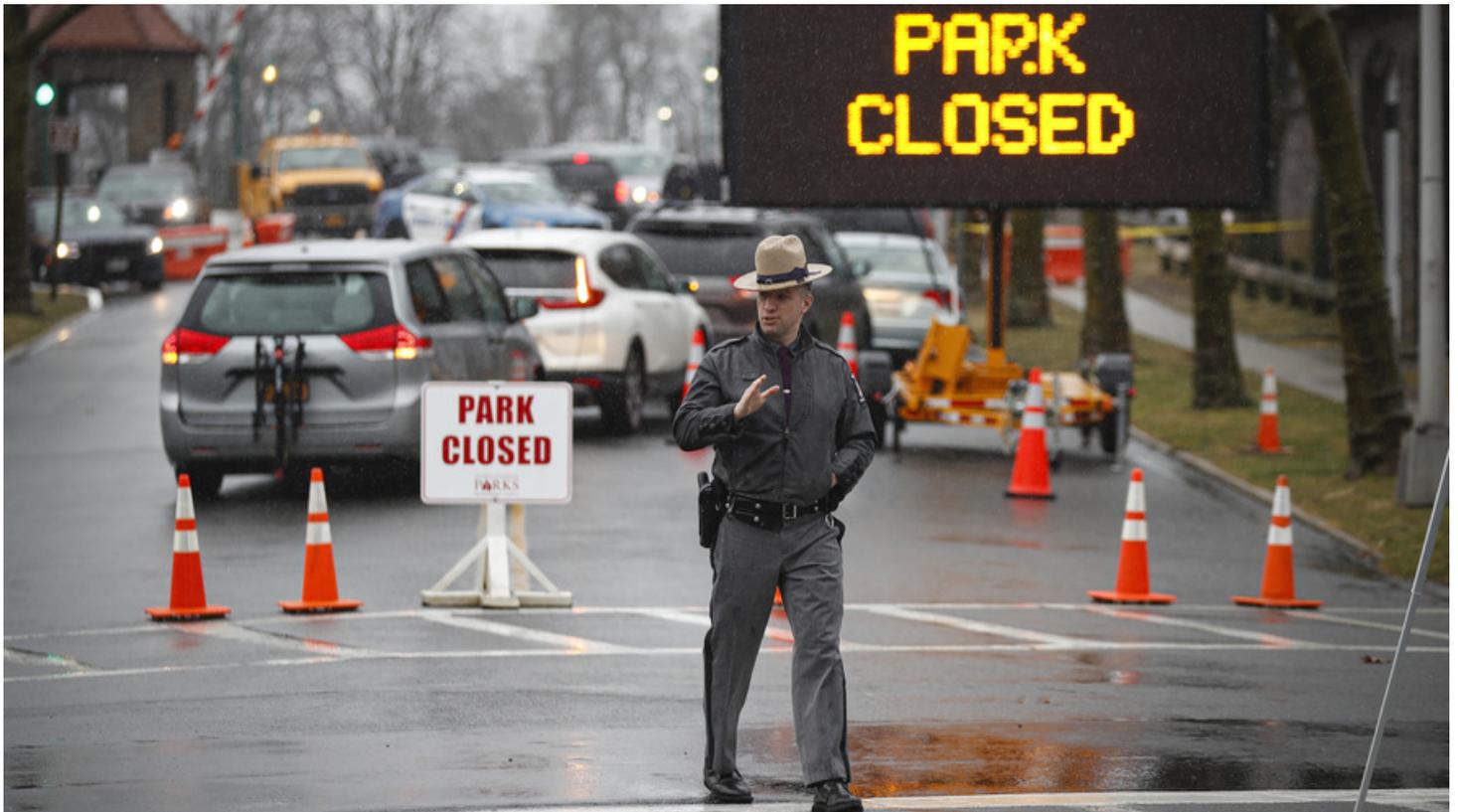


Image 1. Authorities control a line of motorists waiting to be tested for coronavirus at Glen Island Park in New Rochelle, New York, March 13, 2020. Closing areas such as parks is an essential part of the social distancing needed to slow the COVID-19 outbreak. Photo: John Minchillo/AP Photo

Schools have recently been shutting down all over the country, moving instruction online. Sporting events are being canceled and postponed. The future of the 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan is in doubt. Festivals and conferences are also being delayed or postponed.

The cause for all these closures is a flu-like illness called COVID-19. COVID-19 is short for coronavirus disease 2019. It began in China. It has been spreading across the globe since December 2019.

There have been around 1,660 cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in the United States. There have been fewer than 50 deaths because of it.

Health officials are telling people to not gather in groups. This helps prevent the spread of the virus.

Many people talk about the flu. Every year the flu makes millions of people sick. It kills tens of thousands of people. The flu is expected to make 50 million people in the United States sick this year. It is expected to kill as many as 52,000.

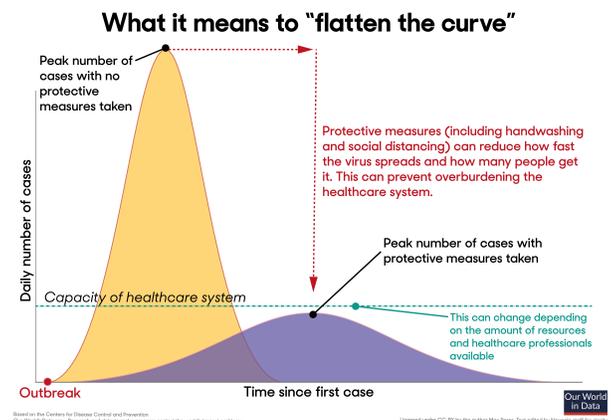
So why is everyone making such a big deal about the coronavirus? Why are events being canceled? Why are classes being moved online? Especially when there are so few cases right now.

### Prevent Overburdening Health Care System

There's a good reason to "cancel everything." The goal is to slow down the spread of the virus. This will also help prevent overburdening the health care system. If someone gets the coronavirus, they have to go to the hospital. If a lot of people get sick at the same time, the hospital will get full quickly. If too many people get sick at the same time there will not be enough space for everyone who is sick to be taken care of. That is what is happening in Italy.

It's called "flattening the curve." And that's exactly what it looks like when you see it drawn out.

Epidemiologists study diseases and how they spread. They try to predict how diseases spread. They look at how the disease behaves. If everyone acted like normal and did not limit social interaction the number of cases would increase. The number of people infected would grow quickly. They would overwhelm hospitals. This will result in more people dying. This is happening in Italy. There are not enough hospital beds or medicine for everyone who is sick. There aren't even enough healthy doctors and nurses to take care of everyone at once.



However, if that same number of cases gets stretched out over months it changes things. Then people can get the care they need. More health care providers can avoid illness and burnout, and fewer people are likely to die — as South Korea has shown.

But are we really headed for that many cases?

Yes.

### Beyond Containment

Scott Gottlieb used to work for the Food and Drug Administration. He explained in a recent interview, the novel coronavirus — just declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization — is beyond containment. A pandemic is when a disease has spread all over a country or the world. If it's not already in your community, it's coming soon. The only reason total U.S. cases aren't already skyrocketing is that coronavirus testing has been such a mess that too few people — just 77 by the CDC in the whole week of March 8— are being tested. The CDC is short for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is the U.S. health care agency. You can't count cases you haven't found yet.

So what do we do to avert disaster? We have to flatten the curve. Fortunately, people are listening. And the idea has caught on so well among armchair epidemiologists that the #flatteningthecurve

and #FlattenTheCurve hashtags have trended several times on Twitter in recent days.

Clearly, public officials and businesses are listening to the warnings of public health officials, as evidenced by all the closings and cancellations. But to be effective, ordinary people need to do their part by avoiding as much as possible any crowds and places where large numbers of people congregate, such as movie theaters, malls and events that haven't been canceled.

## Quiz

- 1 Read the section "Beyond Containment."
- Which sentence from this section supports the conclusion that many more Americans will be diagnosed with COVID-19?
- (A) He explained in a recent interview, the novel coronavirus — just declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization — is beyond containment.
  - (B) The only reason total U.S. cases aren't already skyrocketing is that coronavirus testing has been such a mess that too few people — just 77 by the CDC in the whole week of March 8— are being tested.
  - (C) And the idea has caught on so well among armchair epidemiologists that the #flatteningthecurve and #FlattenTheCurve hashtags have trended several times on Twitter in recent days.
  - (D) Clearly, public officials and businesses are listening to the warnings of public health officials, as evidenced by all the closings and cancellations.
- 2 Read the section "Prevent Overburdening Health Care System."
- Select the sentence from the section that shows what epidemiologists mean by "flattening the curve."
- (A) There's a good reason to "cancel everything."
  - (B) If someone gets the coronavirus, they have to go to the hospital.
  - (C) There aren't even enough healthy doctors and nurses to take care of everyone at once.
  - (D) However, if that same number of cases gets stretched out over months it changes things.
- 3 WHY did the author feel encouraged after the #FlattenTheCurve hashtag trended on Twitter?
- (A) It suggested that people were listening to experts' advice on how to control the spread of the coronavirus.
  - (B) It showed that people were confused about why they needed to stay away from public spaces.
  - (C) It suggested that epidemiologists had found a reliable way to share information about the coronavirus.
  - (D) It showed that social media companies were helping to spread awareness about the coronavirus.
- 4 What effect did the COVID-19 outbreak have on Italy?
- (A) It illustrated that even minor sanitation and isolation measures are effective at limiting epidemics.
  - (B) It overwhelmed the ability of its health care system to treat everyone who was infected.
  - (C) It caused Italians to avoid going to the hospital out of fear that they would be infected there.
  - (D) It brought major protests of the Italian government, which did not handle the outbreak well.

# How cholera spread so quickly through Haiti in 2010

By National Geographic, adapted by Newsela staff on 09.21.19

Word Count **527**

Level **870L**



A child is fed by her mother while receiving treatment for cholera at a clinic in Haiti in 2011. Photo by: Rodrigo Abd/Associated Press

In January 2010, the Caribbean nation of Haiti was hit by a devastating earthquake. Ten months later, an outbreak of a disease called cholera struck the country. As of 2016, there were at least 770,000 cases of the disease and more than 9,200 deaths. It is the worst cholera outbreak in recent history. The United Nations recently admitted that it may have accidentally introduced the disease.

The outbreak spread quickly through the country. The cases in Haiti alone resulted in an 85 percent increase in the number of cholera cases worldwide. The U.N. has not taken full responsibility for the cholera outbreak. However, the secretary-general's office admitted that it may have played a part. Peacekeepers who arrived in Haiti after the earthquake may have helped trigger the outbreak.

## How Did It Spread?

Cholera is caused by bacteria known as *Vibrio cholerae*. The bacteria spread through drinking water or food. Large epidemics often start in water supplies contaminated by fecal matter, or human waste. The Haitian outbreak is believed to have started near a U.N. camp. Peacekeepers from Nepal were living in this particular camp. They had come to Haiti to help with earthquake relief efforts.

The camp deposited its waste directly into the nearby Meille River. Nepal was suffering a cholera outbreak at the time. The peacekeepers are suspected to have transmitted the disease through their waste. The river was a primary source of water for thousands of people. Without the ability to treat the water for diseases first, many Haitians may have drunk the contaminated water.

This outbreak was likely the first time in decades that cholera had been seen in Haiti. As a result, the population lacked immunity, or a natural defense against the disease. This made the Haitian people particularly vulnerable to the illness.

### **Why Was It So Devastating?**

Cholera is a messy disease. The symptoms include diarrhea, vomiting, and cramping. In severe cases, dehydration and shock can take hold within hours. If left untreated, 25 to 50 percent of cases can result in death.

City centers that lack water and sanitation facilities are especially vulnerable. In earthquake-ravaged Haiti, there was insufficient health care and a lack of sanitation. These conditions likely helped the disease spread more quickly.

The symptoms of explosive diarrhea and vomiting aid in the spread of disease. In these cases, the waste and bacteria are harder to contain.

### **How Can It Be Prevented?**

Cholera can be prevented through careful sanitation and hygiene. If possible, use bottled water with unbroken seals. If bottled water is unavailable, boil the water for at least one minute. Otherwise, treat it with chlorine or household bleach. Any food should be thoroughly cooked. This is especially true for shellfish and seafood. Bacteria can attach themselves to the shells of crab, shrimp, and other shellfish.

Safe hand washing practices are very important for cholera prevention. Hands should be washed after using the bathroom and again before preparing food or eating.

Lastly, cholera can be prevented by properly disposing of human waste. Latrines and outhouses should be located away from homes. Solid waste should be buried at least 98 feet from a body of water.

## Quiz

1 Read the summary of the main ideas of the article below.

*After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, peacekeepers from Nepal may have triggered a cholera outbreak through their waste. Since there was insufficient health care and a lack of sanitation, many Haitians became ill, and thousands have died.*

Which answer choice would BEST complete the summary?

- (A) The U.N. has admitted it may have played a part in introducing the disease to Haiti.
- (B) Good hygiene and waste management practices can help prevent this disease.
- (C) Up to half of all cholera cases can result in death if the disease is not treated.
- (D) Dehydration is one of several symptoms associated with the disease.

2 Which sentence from the article supports the MAIN idea of the article?

- (A) It is the worst cholera outbreak in recent history.
- (B) Cholera is a messy disease.
- (C) Otherwise, treat it with chlorine or household bleach.
- (D) This is especially true for shellfish and seafood.

3 Read the section "Why Was It So Devastating?"

Which sentence from this section shows WHY diarrhea and vomiting helped transmit cholera to more people?

- (A) The symptoms include diarrhea, vomiting, and cramping.
- (B) In severe cases, dehydration and shock can take hold within hours.
- (C) The symptoms of explosive diarrhea and vomiting aid in the spread of disease.
- (D) In these cases, the waste and bacteria are harder to contain.

4 Why were peacekeepers from Nepal living in a camp in Haiti?

- (A) To start a new U.N. camp. "The Haitian outbreak is believed to have started near a U.N. camp."
- (B) To live in the camp. "Peacekeepers from Nepal were living in this particular camp."
- (C) To help after the earthquake. "They had come to Haiti to help with earthquake relief efforts."
- (D) To address the cholera outbreak. "Nepal was suffering a cholera outbreak at the time."