



BJHS 7th & 8th Grade
APRIL 20 - APRIL 24
11:00-1:00 A.M.

PBS Arkansas Shows and Times	
Life from Above Moving Planet	Behold Earth as it's never been seen before. Cameras in space tell stories of life on our planet from a brand-new perspective, revealing its incredible movements, colors, patterns and just how fast it's changing.
Arthur The Squirrels/Fern and Persimmoy Glitchet	Arthur's goals are to help foster an interest in reading and writing, to encourage positive social skills, and to model age-appropriate problem-solving strategies.
SciGirls Code Center	SciGirls showcases bright, curious, real tween girls putting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to work in their everyday lives.
Nature The Mighty Weasel	NATURE brings the beauty and wonder of the natural world into your home, becoming in the process the benchmark for natural history programs.
Odd Squad Portlandia/Slides & Ladders	The show focuses on two young agents, Olive and Otto, who are part of the Odd Squad, an agency whose mission is to save the day whenever something unusual happens in their town.
Changing Seas Corals in Crisis Mystery of the Humpback Whale Songs	Protected inside a National Marine Sanctuary, the Cordell Bank is a hotspot for marine life. Cold, nutrient-rich waters swelling up from the deep fuel the base of the marine food chain in the region, which in turn feeds birds, sea turtles, and marine mammals who travel from thousands of miles away.
Magical Land of Oz Human	Burrow into the magical depths of Australian animal life as unique species navigate extremes on land and sea. Blue chip cameras capture the continent's diverse animal populations in its highest snow peaks, frigid southern seas and suburban backyards.
Ireland's Wild Coast Part 2	Follow a unique journey along one of the most spectacular coastlines in the world featuring the wildlife and wild places that make it so special.
NOVA Inside Animal Minds: Dogs & Super Senses Decoding the Great Pyramid	How do dogs experience the world? New archeological evidence sheds light on the stunning engineering of the Great Pyramid of Giza.
Yoga in Practice Allow Yourself to Soar	Designed to teach the foundations of yoga to the at-home student, and to encourage a daily yoga practice that is more than simply physical exercise.
Wild Metropolis Residents	Discover the extraordinary animals adapting to life in the world's most loved cities and witness the remarkable ways they meet the challenges of surviving in the newest habitat on the planet.

Link to Barton's Virtual Library is <https://www.eldoradopublicschools.org/o/bjh/page/library--136>

*****Not all learning opportunities require watching PBS*****

Literacy Corner

1. Complete the required weekly reading passage.

You must do the Weekly Reading Passage

- **Required Weekly Passage:**
- Each week complete the required reading passage. [Click here for the Google Form.](#)
- To complete on paper go to page 5.



2. Choose **3** literacy learning opportunities listed below to practice your reading, writing and communication skills.

Don't forget to grab a good book and read daily.

- **Presentation:** Time for YOU to be the expert! Make a presentation about something you learned this week. Be sure to include facts and pictures. This can be done on paper, poster, google presentation, etc. You can present for family at home or video chat with family and friends for a learning experience for all!
- **Read the Article:** [Read Cross-Training and answer the questions.](#)
- **Animal Perspective:** In the episode *Inside Animal's Minds*, you learned about the science behind what animals are thinking. Take a picture of an animal (pet or one outside) OR find a picture of an animal. Write a diary entry from the perspective of the animal in your picture. Consider how it speaks, its daily routine, and what it is thinking about you, other animals, and/or its surroundings. Extension: Create a meme using the picture to summarize or highlight an important part of the diary entry.
- **Working it OUT:** In the episode *Allow Yourself to Soar*, a series of stretches are taught. What is your workout and stretching routine? What motivates you to workout and stretch, and how does it help you? Consider how you feel prior to working or stretching to how you typically feel afterwards. Design a workout routine, identify the purpose of the workout and the intended outcomes.
- **Symbol Poster:** In the episode *Decoding the Pyramids*, historians and archeologists discuss the importance of the Egyptian Pyramids to world history and Egyptian culture. These Pyramids have become a symbol for something more. Remember, a symbol is something that represents or stands for something else; a physical object that might represent an idea. Is there a building or monument in your community or in the United States that is important to your community or our nation? Explain. (Consider: Where is it located? What does it look like? When was it built? What does it represent? Why is it important to the community or culture? Is it a symbol for an idea?) Create a poster of the symbol and include detailed information.
- **Human Nature:** Everyone experiences fear. It is human nature that we, as people, are afraid of certain things or situations. What fears do you experience? For example, are you afraid of specific animals or are you afraid of failing or embarrassing yourself? How do you overcome those fears? What do you say to yourself? What is your routine? Write about a time when you overcame your fear, or describe a time you did not overcome your fear. What did you learn from this? (Note: If you do not feel comfortable writing about yourself, select a character from a short story, novel, or film that has experienced fear and address the questions provided.)



- **Writing Creativity:** Select a short story, movie, play, or film that has an ending you would like to change. Write a different ending. Will it be a happier or sadder ending? Will it end on a cliffhanger? (Extension: Why did you want to change the ending to this short story, movie, play, or film?)

- **Journal Writing:** Begin keeping a daily journal or diary on the current pandemic.
- **FREE Choice-** What are your interests? Choose a topic and create a document, presentation or performance that will teach someone else about your topic.

Link to Barton's Virtual Library is <https://www.eldoradopublicschools.org/o/bjh/page/library--136>

Not all learning opportunities require watching PBS

Math Mania:

Choose 3 math learning opportunities to build and reinforce your math skills.

- **Khan Academy:** If you have internet access, it is recommended that your child utilize the Khan Academy modules with built-in instruction to support math learning at least 3 days a week. Select your grade level or type in the web address and select the GET STARTED button. (Counts as one each day) If needed students may select a different grade, regardless of age.

[5th grade math](https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-fifth-grade-math) <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-fifth-grade-math>

[6th grade math](https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-sixth-grade-math) <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-sixth-grade-math>

[7th grade math](https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-seventh-grade-math) <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-seventh-grade-math>

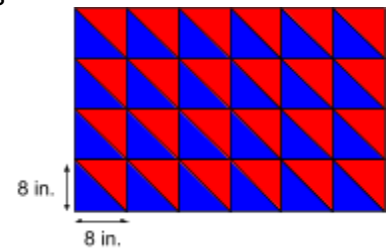
[8th grade math](https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-eighth-grade-mathAlgebra) <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-eighth-grade-mathAlgebra>

- **Friends You Can Count On:** You and your friend went to get ice cream. The restaurant has a sign with the different kinds of ice creams, candies/cookies, and toppings. You and your friend wonder how many different blasts you can make. Find all the combinations you can make and explain how you know you have found all of them.

Ice Cream	Candy/Cookie	Topping
Vanilla	Snickers Bar	Gummy Bears
Chocolate	Oreo Cookie	Rainbow Sprinkles
Strawberry	M & M Candy	Hot Fudge
	Peanut Butter Cup	

- **More Garage Sale Dominoes:** Mr. Blake knows that there are 28 dominoes in a double-six set. Since nine is $6 + \frac{1}{2}$ of 6, he estimates that there should be $28 + \frac{1}{2}$ of 28 dominos altogether in a double-nine set for a total of 42 dominoes. Is Mr. Blake correct in his estimate? Explain your reasoning using words, pictures and/or numbers.

- **Area of Rectangle:** In *Odd Squad: Portlandia*, the second rectangular portal was composed of right triangles as seen in the picture to the right. What is the total area of the rectangle? Explain your thinking and don't forget the units.



- **Would you rather?** Which amount of 1 inch square pieces of chocolate would you rather have? Explain the reason for your choice.
 - Enough to cover a rectangle with a length of 9 in. and a perimeter of 22 in.
 - Enough to cover a rectangle with a length of 5 in. and a perimeter of 20 in.

- **Wrapping Presents:** *Material:* Rectangular box

Choose a box and find the smallest amount of paper needed to cover it on all sides. Think about nets and the surface area for rectangular prisms, including measures of length, width, and height. What is the volume of your box? Would the units for surface area and volume be the same or different? Explain your thinking.

- **Integer Subtraction Battle:** 2 players. *Materials:* Deck of Cards, Ace = 1, Jack = 11, Queen = 12, King = 13, Red cards = negative, black cards = positive.

How to Play: Each person turns over two cards then subtracts the value of the second card from the value of the first card. The player with the highest value hand wins all 4 cards. Continue play until all cards have been used. The player with the most cards wins. (Remember: $2 - 3 = -1$, $-2 - (-3) = 1$, $2 - (-3) = 5$, $-2 - 3 = -5$)

- **Integer Addition:** In *Odd Squad: Slides and Ladders*, Oswald is lost in the OSMU van.

The floors are connected with ladders and slides. The ladders take him up floors and slides take him down floors. He started on floor 10, then took an 8 slide, 2 ladder, 3 slide, and finally a 5 slide. What level is he on now? Does he need to take a slide or ladder to get back to the main floor (floor zero)? What number will the slide or ladder need to be? Use a vertical number line and/or an equation to help Oswald.



THINK like a Scientist!

Pre-AP Science must choose at least **3** science learning opportunities for the week and read the science passage; regular science must choose at least **2** science learning opportunities for the week and read the science passage.

- **Compare/Contrast:** Before watching *NOVA Inside Animal Minds: Dogs and Super Senses*, draw a T-chart. On the left-side draw an image of a dog. On the right-side draw an image of a wolf. After watching the video, compare and contrast the super senses of a dog versus a wolf
- **Coral Reef:** After watching the video *Changing Seas: Corals in Crisis*, draw and color a coral reef ecosystem. Include fish, plants and etc. Identify how fish use the coral reefs for survival.
- **Challenge:** Build a coral reef diorama (see link [Build a Coral Reef Diorama](#))
- **Design a Code:** After viewing the *SciGirls: Code Concert*, design your own code to give a set of instructions for something to move through a grid, to color a drawing, or create your own idea.



- **Make a prism** with commonly found objects. Use the sun as an alternate source of white light. Set a drinking glass half filled with water on the edge of a window sill and adjust its position to get the sunlight to make the prism effect on a sheet of white paper. You can also make a prism using a CD. Poke a small hole in a piece of aluminum foil and fold the foil over a flashlight. Shine the flashlight on the back of the CD and rotate until you see the prism effect. Record your observations on paper and submit.

- **Reflection:** Using different types of reflective materials like a mirror, place them in the garden and make observations of the reflections and shadows cast by the different materials on the plants. Record and submit.
- **Reading Passage: (Required science reading) Go to page 9 or click <https://drive.google.com/open?id=19j2u6svVSVgFzOV-96k7piHiq4UsmPHa>**

Pre-AP Science: Pick (3) three of the options to complete and do the assigned reading.

Click on link: [Google Form for Article Questions](#)

Regular Science: Pick (2) two of the options to complete and do the assigned reading.

Click on link: [Google Form for Article Questions](#)

FUN ZONE

Choose **1** FUN ZONE opportunity for the week for Career Development, Keyboarding, CCT, Electives and Rotation.

- ★ **Get active-** dance, do exercises, create an obstacle course, go for a walk or run.
- ★ **Perform-** Write and perform an original song or dance.
- ★ **Play** a family game (Uno, Heads Up, Battleship, Chess, etc...)
- ★ **Create a masterpiece-** Paint or draw
- ★ Check out the [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) for additional learning opportunities for each show.



English Required Reading Passage

Read the passages. Then, answer the questions.

Microbursts

¹ One of the least known weather phenomena is a microburst. It is a wind occurring beneath certain clouds that is strong enough to damage buildings, knock down trees, and crash airliners. Microbursts can produce wind speeds higher than 175 miles per hour, which is greater than many tornadoes and hurricanes.

² Microbursts are fast-moving columns of air that develop beneath cumulonimbus clouds. These are the same clouds that produce thunderstorms and tornadoes. The air develops quickly and moves straight down from the cloud base. It then moves along the ground and curls back up and around in a circular manner. They are also called “cloud sneezes.”

³ Since 1975, eight airline crashes have been directly attributed to microbursts. The crashes occur during either takeoff or landing. Let's consider an aircraft landing as an example. Flying low in its approach, the aircraft encounters the outer area of the microburst's curling wind. The pilot senses the updraft and forces the nose of the plane down to compensate. As the airplane continues, it encounters the strong downdraft at the center. Because the nose of the plane is already lowered, the down-moving air forces the nose rapidly lower, and the pilot is unable to **compensate**. This forces the airplane down to the ground.

⁴ The most famous microburst airline crash was Delta Airlines Flight 191 at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport on August 2nd, 1985. The airliner crashed on approach due to a microburst, and 137 passengers and crew members died.

⁵ As a result of the airliner crash, the government sought ways to detect microbursts with various types of weather radar. This and other precautionary measures have lessened the number of airline crashes due to microbursts.

1. What primary structure does the author use to organize the thoughts in the text?
 - A. cause and effect
 - B. compare and contrast
 - C. problem and solution
 - D. sequential or chronological approach
2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - A. How people can avoid a microburst
 - B. How a microburst is formed
 - C. How a microburst affects airlines
 - D. How the government has stopped microbursts from happening
3. Based on what you have read in the text, what is the best way to describe the effect a microburst has on aircraft?
 - A. A microbursts limits a pilot's visibility during landings.
 - B. The extreme shifts in wind direction make it difficult to navigate the plane safely.
 - C. The force of the wind in a microburst prevents a plane from taking off.
 - D. The extreme wind speeds knock aircraft sideways, and they crash.
4. What does the word **compensate** mean as it is used in the third paragraph?
 - A. to make equitable with financial return
 - B. to counteract or make allowance for
 - C. to make amends
 - D. to navigate
5. According to the text, what is the **most** dangerous aspect of a microburst?
 - A. The air from a microburst develops rapidly.
 - B. The air travels in a circular motion.
 - C. A microburst has a curling wind.
 - D. A microburst produces accelerated wind speeds.



You've been running four miles a day, five days a week, for eight weeks. You made the track team, but your times aren't improving. Suddenly you can't stand the thought of running. You just want to veg out in front of the TV. Are you burned out at such a young age?

For many athletes, a loss of interest can mean boredom. Luckily, there's a cure for this that will also improve your overall fitness. It's called cross-training.

What Is Cross-Training?

Cross-training is a way of adding variety to your exercise program by doing two or more different types of exercise in one workout. Athletes have been cross-training since the days of the Olympic pentathlons of ancient Greece.

At first, cross-training may seem contradictory. You might have been taught that the way to improve performance is to concentrate on that area. If you want to be a runner, you might think strength training would only waste your time. Research has found, however, that for

runners, strength training can actually improve performance by about 20 percent.

What Are the Benefits?

There's a lot to be said about cross-training.

- *Cross-training reduces the risk of injury.* When you run all the time, you stress the same muscles. If you alternate running with swimming or cycling, you use different muscles, and give the running muscles a rest.
- *Cross-training improves your overall fitness.* Jogging gives you aerobic fitness, but doesn't do anything to develop the upper body. Strength training makes muscles stronger, but doesn't give you flexibility.
- *Cross-training adds variety to your routine.* If you get into a rut, chances are you'll quit your workouts. On the other hand, if you don't have to face that four-mile run every day, you'll have more enthusiasm on the days that you do run.
- *Cross-training allows you to become good at more than one activity.* You can spend time doing more than one activity, like bike riding for an hour and lifting weights for another hour.
- *Cross-training keeps you improving.* According to many fitness trainers, sticking with one activity, your body adapts to your exercise routine. Pretty soon your body thinks it has to have a four-mile daily run to survive. Eventually, no matter how much you run, your performance doesn't improve. To avoid such plateaus, you need to throw your body off its schedule by including other activities.

One Person's Experience

Alli Rainey is a professional climber, and there was a time when she was ranked the number one climber in the United States. Although rock climbing is her passion, she spends a lot of time cross-training. "All the other sports have a positive impact overall," she says.

"Cross-training helps me to avoid burnout, and to step away from being so serious about rock climbing." Cross-training also gives her a mental break. "I don't push as hard in the other sports," Alli says.

Alli cautions against overtraining. "I still struggle with doing too much. The key to not getting injured is working into a new sport slowly. If you haven't been running, you can't start out running six miles at top speed. Listen to your body. When it tells you it's tired, stop."

Having a second sport helps Alli avoid depression when she's injured. "When I hurt my finger and couldn't rock climb, I learned how to snowboard. I was able to continue exercising, and I could socialize too."

How Do I Get Started?

Cross-training should include activities that challenge the heart and lungs; increase the body's flexibility; and strengthen the muscles. If you've been running or cycling, you should add strength-training workouts for strength and muscle

definition. If you've been concentrating on strength training, pick an aerobic activity to add. Examples of aerobic activities include swimming and jumping rope. If you're involved in competitive sports, ask your coach for suggestions for cross-training activities.

The main rule to follow when setting up a cross-training program is to choose activities you like. If you hate what you're doing, you'll only get discouraged and quit.

What About Equipment?

Once you start cross-training, probably the most important equipment you'll have to think about is cross-training shoes. Cross-training shoes have wide bottoms to provide stability for your feet. They have durable soles, so you can wear them inside and outside. When you choose a cross-training shoe, be sure to get one with the most cushioning per square inch.

Setting Up a Cross-Training Schedule

Here are some physical activities you can combine to make your own cross-training schedule.

Aerobics	Strength Training	Flexibility
● running	● using upper-body machines	● stretching
● cycling	● using lower-body machines	● doing yoga
● swimming	● using free weights	● doing calisthenics
● kickboxing	● doing calisthenics	
● power walking	● doing crunches	
● skating	● doing push-ups and sit-ups	
● jumping rope		
● stair climbing		

Now write down an exercise plan in this order with these guidelines.

- Warm-up: 10-20 minutes of walking, stretching muscles that are used in your aerobic activity, and doing flexibility exercises.
- Aerobics: 20-60 minutes of an aerobic activity; alternate two activities throughout the week.
- Strength Training (no more than three times a week): 20-30 minutes of strength-training exercises.
- Cooldown: about 10 minutes of slow walking and stretching.

Here's an example of an exercise plan.

- 9:00 – 9:15 a.m. – walking, stretching arms and legs, and doing yoga (Monday through Saturday, except Wednesday)
- 9:15 – 10:00 a.m. – swimming (Monday, Thursday, and Saturday); jumping rope (Tuesday and Friday)
- 10:00 – 10:20 a.m. – using free weights, doing push-ups and sit-ups, and doing calisthenics (Tuesday and Friday)
- 10:00 a.m. (Monday, Thursday, and Saturday); 10:20 a.m. (Tuesday and Friday) – 10 minutes of slow walking and stretching

Keep a record of your progress, such as distances covered, increase in weights lifted, and number of push-ups.

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Comprehension Questions

1. According to the text, what is cross-training?

- A. doing two or more different types of exercise in one workout
- B. doing two or more of the same type of exercise in one workout
- C. doing the same exercise in many workouts throughout the week
- D. doing two or more different exercises that make muscles stronger

2. What does the author list in the text?

- A. the different definitions of cross-training
- B. the different athletes who do cross-training
- C. the different benefits of cross-training
- D. the different pieces of equipment used for cross-training

3. Read these sentences from the text.

According to many fitness trainers, sticking with one activity, your body adapts to your exercise routine. Pretty soon your body thinks it has to have a four-mile daily run to survive. Eventually, no matter how much you run, your performance doesn't improve. To avoid such plateaus, you need to throw your body off its schedule by including other activities.

Based on these sentences, what can you conclude about doing different kinds of physical activities in your exercise routine?

- A. It helps your body adapt to your routine.
- B. It makes your body think you have to do the activities to survive.
- C. It can help your performance in a sport improve.
- D. It makes your performance reach a plateau.

4. Read these sentences from the text.

At first, cross-training may seem contradictory. You might have been taught that the way to improve performance is to concentrate on that area. If you want to be a runner, you might think strength training would only waste your time. Research has found, however, that for runners, strength training can actually improve performance by about 20 percent.

As used in these sentences, what does the word "contradictory" mean?

- A. constant
- B. steady
- C. opposite
- D. reliable

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Cross-training should involve strength training every day.
- B. Cross-training is only helpful to rock climbers.
- C. Cross-training does more harm than good to athletes.
- D. Cross-training can provide many benefits to athletes.

6. How does cross-training add variety to an exercise program?

7. An effective cross-training workout is a mix of kickboxing, using free weights, and doing yoga.

Why is this an effective cross-training workout? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

You should choose activities you like for your cross-training program _____ you'll get discouraged and quit if you hate the activities.

- A. but
- B. so
- C. until
- D. because

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



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

By Forbes, adapted by Newsela staff

Published:03/16/2020

South by Southwest (SXSW) is a huge music/film/tech/education festival. It brings hundreds of thousands of visitors to Austin, Texas, every March. When organizers canceled the festival it was only a matter of time before other major events also canceled.

As of March 13, many sports leagues have suspended their seasons. The National Basketball Association (NBA), National Hockey League (NHL) and Major League Soccer have suspended play. Major League Baseball (MLB) has pushed back the season start. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) canceled March Madness. March Madness is a college basketball competition every spring. If a team loses a game they are out of the competition. People fill out brackets with who they think will keep advancing to the championships.

Several universities have canceled spring football games. The Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) Tour canceled the Players Championship. And the future of the 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan is in doubt. And that's just sports.

School districts from Seattle, Washington, to Baltimore, Maryland, have closed schools. So have entire states, including Maryland, Michigan and Ohio. More than 100 colleges and universities have canceled all in-person classes and moved online. The huge music festival Coachella has been postponed. So have a long list of concerts and music tours and all Broadway shows through April 12. Movie theaters may be next.

Even all Disney parks have closed their gates. This is only the third time Disneyland has closed the park. The first time was after U.S. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. The second time was after 9/11. Terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, hit the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Economic Impacts

The economic impacts of all these closures will be incredibly high. Canceling SXSW will mean a loss of more than \$350 million. This includes thousands of low-income workers' lost tips and wages. However, that won't even be close to how much it will cost sports teams and amusement parks to close down. So the decision to suspend seasons, cancel events and close up shop are not being made lightly.

And yet, there have only been about 1,660 cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in the United States. COVID-19 is short for coronavirus disease 2019. There have also been fewer than 50 deaths because of it in the United States. The coronavirus is a flu-like illness that began in China and has been spreading across the globe since December 2019.

Many people talk about the flu. Every year the flu sickens millions and kills tens of thousands of people. It is expected to sicken nearly 50 million people in the United States this year and kill as many as 52,000 this flu season.

So why is everyone making such a big deal about coronavirus? Why are events being canceled? Why are schools moving to online instruction? Especially when there are so few cases right now.

Slowing The Spread

There's a good reason to "cancel everything." All these decisions by public officials and businesses are aimed at one goal: slowing down the spread of the virus to avoid overburdening a health care system that doesn't have the infrastructure to handle a sudden surge of tens of thousands of cases at once. Without mass closings, that surge is exactly what will happen, just as it has in Italy.

It's called "flattening the curve." And that's exactly what it is when you see it visually.

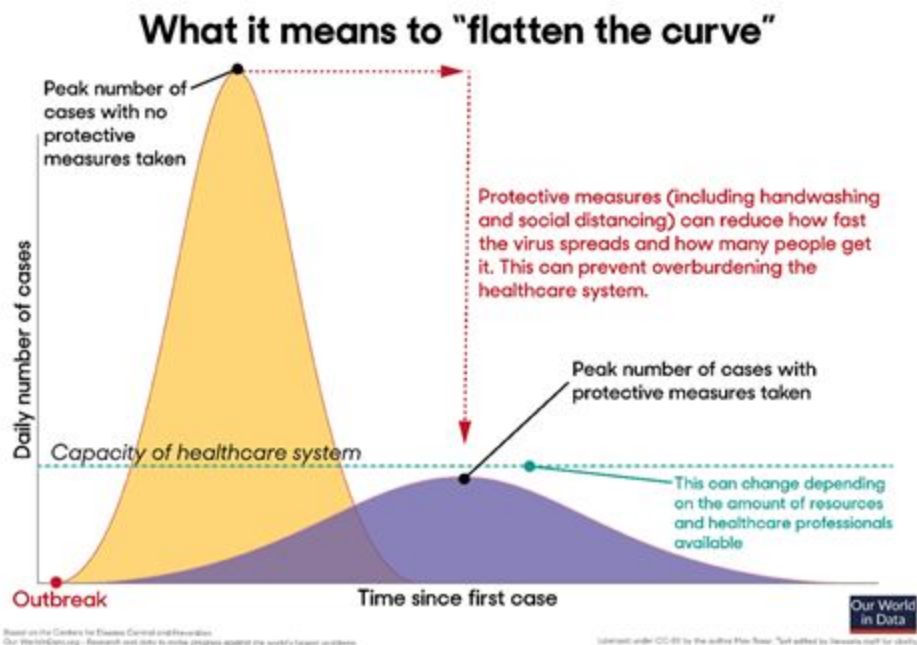


Image 2. What it means to "flatten the curve." The peak on the left represents the number of COVID-19 cases if no protective measures are taken, such as hand washing and social distancing. Protective measures can reduce how fast the virus spreads over time, hopefully preventing hospitals from becoming overburdened. The capacity of the health care system can change depending on the amount of resources and health care professionals available. Graph: Max Roser/Our World in Data. Modified by Newsela staff.

Epidemiologists study diseases and how they spread. They can somewhat predict how many cases of a disease are going to occur based on how the disease is behaving. Continuing business-as-usual allows cases to escalate rapidly in just a few weeks, spiking so high at once that they completely overwhelm hospitals. In such a scenario — such as Italy is facing now — more deaths are likely because there simply aren't enough hospital beds, enough face masks, enough IV bags, even enough healthy doctors and nurses to care for everyone at once.

However, if that same number of cases can be stretched out over months, never quite exceeding the health care system's capacity, then people will 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.

As former Food and Drug Administration (FDA) commissioner Scott Gottlieb explained in a recent interview, the novel coronavirus — just declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization — is beyond containment. 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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the whole week of March 8 — are being tested. You can't count cases you haven't identified yet.

But every indication is that the United States is on track to see the same exponential increase other countries are seeing, as scientist Mark Handley has been tracking on Twitter.

People Are Listening

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.

Answer the following questions:

1. Which selection from the section "Slowing The Spread" BEST explains what epidemiologists mean by "flattening the curve"?

- (A) All these decisions by public officials and businesses are aimed at one goal: slowing down the spread of the virus to avoid overburdening a health care system that doesn't have the infrastructure to handle a sudden surge of tens of thousands of cases at once.
- (B) Epidemiologists study diseases and how they spread. They can somewhat predict how many cases of a disease are going to occur based on how the disease is behaving.
- (C) 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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the whole week of March 8 — are being tested. You can't count cases you haven't identified yet.
- (D) But every indication is that the United States is on track to see the same exponential increase other countries are seeing, as scientist Mark Handley has been tracking on Twitter.

2. Read the following claim.

The coronavirus outbreak will cause tremendous economic losses. Which sentence from the article provides the BEST support for the above statement?

- (A) When organizers canceled the festival it was only a matter of time before other major events also canceled.
- (B) School districts from Seattle, Washington, to Baltimore, Maryland, have closed schools.
- (C) However, that won't even be close to how much it will cost sports teams and amusement parks to close down.
- (D) It is expected to sicken nearly 50 million people in the United States this year and kill as many as 52,000 this flu season.

3. How did the availability of testing affect the number of reported COVID-19 cases in the United States?

- (A) The lack of testing has led the number of reported cases in the United States to decrease significantly in the last two weeks.
- (B) The availability of testing has led to a number of reported cases that experts believe accurately reflects the spread of the virus.
- (C) The lack of testing has led to a number of reported cases that experts believe does not reflect the true spread of the virus.
- (D) The availability of testing has caused the number of reported cases to increase faster in the United States than in other places.

4. Why are epidemiologists worried about a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases in the United States?

- (A) It would cause tremendous economic and business losses.
- (B) The U.S. health care system does not have the supplies or personnel to manage it.
- (C) It would result in the spread of the virus to neighboring countries.
- (D) The U.S. health care system is well prepared to manage a sudden increase in patient numbers.