Essential Question:
How has the Covid 19 pandemic information and facts changed over time?

Instructions:
1. As we move through this historic pandemic around COVID-19, journal how our government reacts to a nation in crisis. Document where you get your sources of information, noting why those sources are credible. A journal entry can be as simple as a paragraph documenting info and dates. Be sure to put in what you are feeling and going through during the week.

2. Maintain a journal of events by making at least 3 different entries each week. Below is the focus that each week’s journal should touch on. It can be online using Google Docs or on paper. (3 Journal entries x 4 weeks) = 12 total entries of your work

3. Choose one of the following ways to present your information: a Paper, a Journal (Paper), a PowerPoint or a Video Journal.

Week #4
Focus on the World Health Organization. This week, we want you thinking globally as to how and what should be done to keep this pandemic from happening again. A lot of focus should be on the World Health Organization (WHO) - What is the WHO’s role? List 2 things that the WHO did with Covid-19 and China. How do you feel about funding the WHO?

Below are a few sources that may help you in your process. You may or may not use them in your own journaling, they are here to help you.


https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/04/02/china-coronavirus-who-health-soft-power/

WHO head cries racism to cover for his enabling of China’s lies about coronavirus
By Post Editorial Board

In answer to global complaints that he helped China lie about the coronavirus threat in the crucial early days of the pandemic, the World Health Organization’s top dog is complaining of racism. That’s right: WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is complaining that Taiwan is fostering supposedly racist attacks against him, and even death threats. But he can’t offer details beyond saying he’s been called names, “black or negro.”
In reality, the whole world has legitimate gripes about TAG’s blatant and loathsome loyalty to Beijing — apparent payback for China’s role in installing him as WHO’s boss.

All through January, Tedros and his minions vouched for Chinese authorities’ lies about the coronavirus, misleading other nations’ health authorities into underestimating the threat.

Taiwan has an added complaint, for being not just excluded from WHO membership but utterly stonewalled by the supposedly nonpolitical organization even during the coronavirus crisis. And Taiwan, for its part, denies a “racist” smear campaign. As Taiwan’s President Tsai Ing-wen put it on Facebook: “If Director-General Tedros could withstand pressure from China and come to Taiwan to see Taiwan’s efforts to fight COVID-19 for himself, he would be able to see that the Taiwanese people are the true victims of unfair treatment.” And: “I believe that the WHO will only truly be complete if Taiwan is included.”

Once the crisis is over, the civilized world needs to put a priority on cleaning the WHO house — starting at the top.

Trump Accused the World Health Organization of Helping China Cover Up Coronavirus- Then he threatened to cut off funding. “They’re always on the side of China. And we fund it. So I want to look into it,” Trump said.

By Greg Walters

Apr 7 2020, 7:33pmShareTweetSnap

WASHINGTON — President Trump threatened to cut off funding to the World Health Organization on Tuesday, accusing the group of helping China cover up the coronavirus contagion.

Trump’s attack follows weeks of criticism of the global public health agency from Trump’s Republican allies on Fox News and elsewhere, including from Sen. Rick Scott of Florida, who last week called for an Congressional investigation into the WHO’s “role in helping Communist China cover up information regarding the threat of the Coronavirus.”

“Everything seems to be very biased toward China. That’s not right,” Trump told the White House press corps on Tuesday. He accused the group of failing to sound the alarm about the spreading virus. “They must have seen it,” Trump said. “But they didn’t report it.”

Trump’s remarks suddenly put about a fifth of the global health group’s operating budget in jeopardy at a moment when the world is fighting a pandemic. The WHO, an agency of the United Nations, relies heavily on voluntary contributions from member states to support its $4.4 billion budget.

Trump is also wrong: The WHO did “report it.”

The WHO declared the coronavirus outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30. In a tweet on the same day, Trump’s Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said this caused the U.S. State Department to recommend Americans avoid traveling to China.
Trump announced travel restrictions on visitors from China the next day, on January 31. But he then suggested the problem was under control — even as it spread throughout the U.S. as a bungled test kept American officials from detecting new cases.

As the U.S. has taken the lead in the number of infections, Trump has tried to rewrite the history of his own dismissive remarks about the threat of the coronavirus in the beginning stages of the outbreak. Now, he’s insisting that the WHO should be blamed for failure to recognize the scale of the problem in time, rather than himself.

Trump’s remarks are part of many right-wing critics of the WHO for failing to warn the world sooner.

The conservative editorial board of The Wall Street Journal blasted the WHO last weekend for “disinformation,” adding that there’s a “way to ensure future pandemics are less deadly: Reform or defund the World Health Organization.”

On Tuesday, Trump jumped on the anti-WHO bandwagon.

“They seem to be very China-centric,” Trump said. “They’re always on the side of China. And we fund it. So I want to look into it.”

**How WHO Became China’s Coronavirus Accomplice**

Beijing is pushing to become a public health superpower—and quickly found a willing international partner.

While the novel coronavirus is changing the world, China is trying to do the same. Already a serious strategic rival of the United States with lots of international power, it’s now moving into a new field—health.

After initial denials and cover-ups, China successfully contained the COVID-19 outbreak—but not before it had exported many cases to the rest of the world. Today, despite the falsehoods it initially passed on, it’s trying to use its success for more power in international health organizations.

Most critically, Beijing has been steering the World Health Organization (WHO) from the beginning. The WHO receives funding from China. Before January, the WHO was repeating information from the Chinese authorities, ignoring warnings from Taiwanese doctors- and delaying calling it a “public health emergency of international concern.”

After the Beijing visit, though, WHO said in a statement that it appreciated “especially the commitment from top leadership, and the transparency they have demonstrated.” Only after the meeting did it declare a public health emergency of international concern. And after China reported only a few new cases each day, WHO declared the coronavirus a pandemic March 11—even though it had spread globally weeks before.

WHO spread Chinese propaganda saying: “In the face of a previously unknown virus, China has rolled out perhaps the most ambitious, agile and aggressive disease containment effort in history.”

China’s “uncompromising and rigorous use of non-pharmaceutical measures” provides vital lessons for the global response, the WHO report said. Beijing’s strategy “demonstrated that containment can be adapted and successfully operationalized in a wide range of settings.” However, while recommending China’s epidemic control policy to the world, WHO neglected the negative points—from economic damage to the failure to treat many non-coronavirus patients, psychological issues, and human rights costs.

It’s not surprising that China’s containment strategy was effective, said Richard Neher, virologist at the University of Basel. “The big lockdown, centralized quarantine, and contact tracing for sure accelerated the decline,” Neher said. Lawrence O. Gostin, director of the WHO Collaborating Center on National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University, points to “major human rights” concerns with the lockdown techniques pioneered in China and now—to a different degree—adopted in many nations. Gostin recommends standard public health measures like testing, treatment, contact tracing, and isolation or quarantine “as scientifically justified.”
While the rising number of cases elsewhere shows that China isn’t alone in failing in the initial stages of an outbreak, the full story of the Chinese loss will probably never be known—and certainly not recognized by WHO or other bodies.

One reason is that official data from China is often highly questionable. Countless cases of people dying at home in Wuhan—some being described in social media posts—will probably never go into the statistics. And while a report by Caixin on the Chinese province of Heilongjiang said that a considerable percentage of asymptomatic cases has not been reported—which amounts to about 50 percent more known infections in China, according to a *South China Morning Post* report on classified government data—WHO takes numbers reported by Beijing at face value.

“I thought the greatest success of the Chinese party-state was in getting the WHO to focus on the positive sides of China’s responses and ignore the negative sides of the responses,” said Steve Tsang, director of the China Institute at the SOAS University of London. “With the WHO presenting China’s responses in a positive light, the Chinese government is able to make its propaganda campaign to ignore its earlier mistakes appear credible and to ignore the human, societal, and economic costs of its responses.”

Indeed, WHO closes its eyes to such problems. “China reported and isolated ALL individuals with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19,” Christian Lindmeier, a WHO spokesperson, said in mid-March. However, Chinese authorities only in the beginning of April started to make current numbers of asymptomatic cases with lab-confirmed infections public—which also are included in the WHO case definition for COVID-19.

Yet it is unclear whether the WHO experts who traveled to China really understood the situation. For example, based on numbers from the South China province of Guangdong, WHO argued that undetected cases are rare. However, a screening program for COVID-19 only included patients seen at fever clinics; most of them probably showed at least a fever. In Germany, most of the people who tested positive did not show a fever. It is easily possible that there has been a large number of undetected cases, Neher said, which is the “big unknown” in calculations of the death rate.

WHO also left many questions open about how exactly public engagement was managed in its report. Chinese people have reacted “with courage and conviction,” it says; they have “accepted and adhered to the starkest of containment measures.” While this is probably true for many, others were likely motivated by a statement of the Supreme People’s Court: People carrying the virus who don’t follow quarantine restrictions “face jail terms ranging from three to 10 years if the consequence is not serious,” it says. Otherwise, they could face a life sentence or death.

“The community has largely accepted the prevention and control measures and is fully participating in the management of self-isolation and enhancement of public compliance,” the WHO report says. In China, no measures have been implemented that could not also be used elsewhere, Aylward claimed in an interview. Apparently, the WHO mission didn’t have the chance to speak with people with opposing views. Many Chinese people told him that they all have been attacked together and need to react in a united fashion, Aylward said.

The very uniformity of this narrative should have been a wake-up call, said Mareike Ohlberg from the Berlin-based Mercator Institute for China Studies. Indeed, the whole trip of both foreign and national experts seems to have been organized along Potemkin-esque lines for a team where most of its international members lacked linguistic skills and familiarity with China. “We really didn’t have much interaction until after all the site visits,” said Clifford Lane, a deputy director at the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a member of the delegation. It was his first trip to China, he told *Science*. “I was really surprised with how modern the cities were.”

Ohlberg said the statements of the WHO have clearly been heavily influenced by the Chinese Communist Party. She says she was surprised that, from the start, many experts uncritically repeated information from Beijing and “preached confidence in the WHO and the Chinese government.” The WHO report rightly emphasized the heroic commitment of the population of Wuhan. “But it’s important that the WHO does not degrade itself to an instrument of the Chinese government—which does not want to make transparent how the population suffered,” she said.

From a human rights perspective, “authoritarianism is bad for your health,” said Sophie Richardson, China director at Human Rights Watch. “We may never have a clear picture how the virus spread out and who died and why and who is denied access to treatments.”
The world is now living with the consequences of the Chinese government’s censorship, Richardson said. “Not only do we have this problem now, we might have it again in the future.”