Warnings Across Borders

Science, the Internet, and the 2003 SARS outbreak

SS24.WH.18c "Explain problems and opportunities involving science, technology, and worldwide communication, including the Internet, in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways science or online communication helped people respond to SARS. Circle two limits or risks, then number each circle to match an underline that it complicates.

An Outbreak in a Connected World

1 In 2003, a new illness called SARS spread from China to other countries through international travel. Hospitals in places such as Hong Kong and Toronto faced patients with severe breathing problems. Doctors could send reports across borders using email and online health networks instead of waiting for printed notices. The World Health Organization, or WHO, used these reports to warn other countries. Faster communication gave hospitals time to watch for cases and prepare staff.

2 Science and communication worked together. Researchers in different countries studied patient samples and shared findings online. Within weeks, they identified a previously unknown coronavirus as the cause of SARS. This discovery helped scientists develop tests that could confirm infections. But early tests were not always available, and a person could travel before showing symptoms. Online warnings could move quickly, yet they could not replace trained health workers or reliable testing.

3 The Internet also carried risks. False claims about who was infected could spread faster than officials could correct them, and sharing patient details could threaten privacy. Not every clinic had dependable Internet access, so some workers received updates later than others. During SARS, online networks gave researchers and health officials a way to coordinate across borders. The same crisis showed that speed alone could not make information accurate, fair, or useful to everyone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did email and online health networks create an opportunity for hospitals in other countries?

2. How did sharing findings online help researchers and health workers respond to SARS?

3. Why could fast online warnings not stop every infected person from traveling?

4. Explain two ways worldwide online communication could cause problems or leave people out during the outbreak.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new illness has appeared in several countries. Write a four-sentence plan for sharing scientific findings across borders: describe one opportunity, one problem, and a specific step that addresses that problem.

ANSWER KEY

Warnings Across Borders

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.18c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways science or online communication helped people respond to SARS. Circle two limits or risks, then number each circle to match an underline that it complicates. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did email and online health networks create an opportunity for hospitals in other countries?	**Doctors could send reports across borders quickly, giving hospitals time to watch for cases and prepare staff.**
2	How did sharing findings online help researchers and health workers respond to SARS?	**Researchers identified the coronavirus that caused SARS, which helped scientists develop tests to confirm infections.**
3	Why could fast online warnings not stop every infected person from traveling?	**A person could travel before showing symptoms, and early tests were not always available.**
4	Explain two ways worldwide online communication could cause problems or leave people out during the outbreak.	**False claims could spread quickly or patient details could threaten privacy. Clinics without dependable Internet access could receive updates later.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Labs in different countries could post verified findings to a shared website so doctors can compare what they see. Clinics without dependable Internet might miss important updates. Health agencies could also send the same findings by text message or radio to reach those clinics. Each update should include its source and date so workers know whether the findings are current.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of opportunities and problems. For the open task, look for a plausible cross-border science plan, a distinct problem, and a step that addresses it.