The Spanish Flu

Name/Date:

SOURCE A

The Mother of Pandemics

"1918 Influenza: the Mother of All Pandemics," by J.K. Taubenberger and D.M. Morens, in *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 12, No. 1, January 2006.

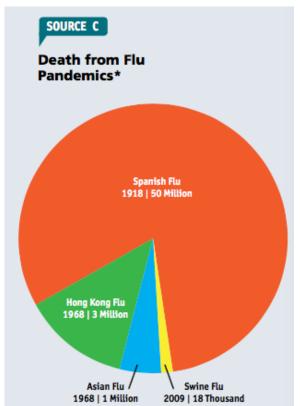
An estimated one third of the world's population (or approx. 500 million persons) were infected and had clinically apparent illnesses during the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic.

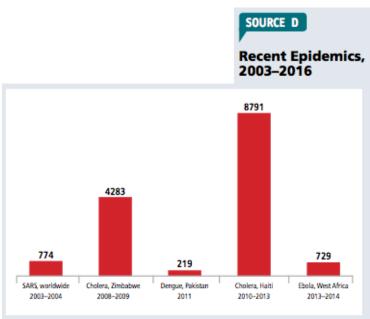
SOURCE B

Fastest Pandemic in History

Excerpt from "Spanish flu killed millions, but few remember," by Helen Branswell, Toronto Star, September 19, 2008.

By the time it was through rampaging around the globe, this assailant—the Spanish flu—had killed between 50 million and 100 million people, several times more than had lost their lives in the soon-to-be-concluded War to End All Wars ... 30,000 to 50,000 dead in Canada.





SOURCE E

Where the Flu Got Its Name

"Origin of the 1918 Pandemic: The Case for France," NPR, February 20, 2006.

Everyone seems to agree that the 1918 flu epidemic, known as the "Spanish flu," didn't start in Spain. That name probably came from the fact that only Spain was publishing news about local flu epidemics; there was a blackout on news that might lower morale in Germany, Britain and France.

SOURCE F

Kansas Flu?

Anton Erkoreka, "Origins of the Spanish Influenza pandemic (1918–1920) and its relation to the First World War," National Center for Biological Information (NCBI) website, November 30, 2009.

Fragmentary information from this period refers to distinct outbreaks of influenza in the USA and in other countries during the period 1915–1916. [There was]... an acute infectious outbreak among young farmers in a locality of Kansas called Haskell County. This occurred in February 1918 and, due to its clinical gravity, was compared to the Spanish Influenza. Many of these young farmers were called to arms and incorporated into the Funston military camp.

An article from that time indicates that the epidemic began on 5th March 1918 among the Chinese workers contracted at the Fort Riley military base in Funston (Kansas).

SOURCE G

Flu Warning

Poster from American Lung Association, c. 1925.



SOURCE H

Chicago Flu Warning

Poster from Chicago Department of Health, c. 1918.

INFLUENZA

FREQUENTLY COMPLICATED WITH

PNEUMONIA

IS PREVALENT AT THIS TIME THROUGHOUT AMERICA.
THIS THEATRE IS CO-OPERATING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

YOU MUST DO THE SAME

IF YOU HAVE A COLD AND ARE COUGHING AND SNEEZING DO NOT ENTER THIS THEATRE

GO HOME AND GO TO BED UNTIL YOU ARE WELL

Coughing Sneezing or Spitting Will Not Be Permitted In The Theatre. In case you must cough or Sneeze, do so in your own handkerchief, and if the Coughing or Sneezing Perstats Leave The Theatre At Once.

This Theatre has agreed to co-operate with the Department Of Health in disseminating the truth about Influenza, and thus serve a great educational purpose.

HELP US TO KEEP CHICAGO THE HEALTHIEST CITY IN THE WORLD

JOHN DILL ROBERTSON

COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

SOURCE I

Masks Against the Flu

The Red Cross, c. 1918

