

Teacher Resource

What is a virus?

Focus Questions

1. What did the BTN story explain?
2. Give three examples of things that are caused by viruses.
3. Viruses are one of the four families of _____.
4. What are the other three types of pathogens?
5. When were viruses first discovered?
6. What do viruses need to spread?
7. What is the name of the body's inbuilt virus defence?
8. What is a vaccination and how does it work?
9. What can you do to stop the spread of viruses?
10. Name three facts you learnt about viruses.

Activity

Class discussion

After watching the BTN *What is a virus?* story, hold a class discussion about the information raised in the story. The following questions may help guide the discussion:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What does this video make your WONDER?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- What QUESTIONS do you have after watching the story?

Key Learning

Students will investigate what a virus is and how viruses spread. Students will create a biography on the discoverer of viruses.

Curriculum

Science – Year 5 & 6

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

With guidance, pose clarifying questions and make predictions about scientific investigations.

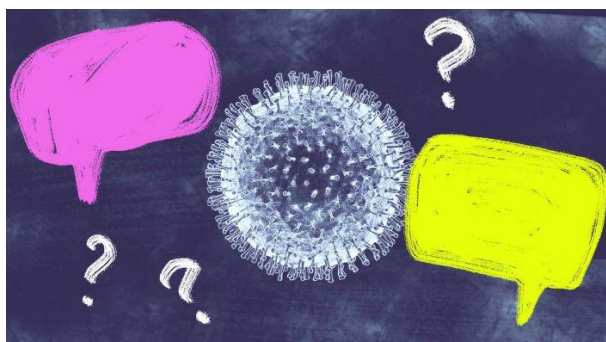
Science – Year 7

Scientific knowledge has changed peoples' understanding of the world and is refined as new evidence becomes available.

Identify questions and problems that can be investigated scientifically and make predictions based on scientific knowledge.

Questions about COVID-19

Do your students have questions about the coronavirus COVID-19? Watch BTN's [Coronavirus Questions](#) story and [Ask A Reporter](#) to learn more and find out if your students questions about COVID-19 are answered.



Activity

Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN *What is a virus?* story. Students may want to use pictures and diagrams to illustrate the meaning and create their own glossary. Here are some words to get you started.

Pathogen	Immune system	Vaccine
Virus	Germs	Bacteria

Activity

KWLH

Hold a class discussion after watching the BTN *What is a virus?* story. What questions were raised in the discussion (what are the gaps in their knowledge)? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

<i>What do I <u>know</u>?</i>	<i>What do I <u>want</u> to know?</i>	<i>What have I <u>learnt</u>?</i>	<i><u>How</u> will I find out?</i>

Research questions for inquiry

Students will determine a focus for their inquiry and develop a key question to guide their inquiry (below are some examples). Students will collect and record information from a wide variety of sources (internet, books, newspaper and magazines).

- What is a virus? Choose one type of virus to research in more detail.
- How do viruses spread?
- Who first discovered viruses? Create a biography on the scientist who made the discovery.
- What is the difference between viruses and bacteria?

Activity

BTN story – COVID-19 Explained

Watch the following BTN [COVID-19 Explained](#) story to learn more about the coronavirus. Watch the story as a class and students will then respond to the focus questions.

1. Discuss the BTN *Coronavirus Explained* story as a class and record the main points of the discussion.
2. Where was the coronavirus first found? Find using Google Maps.
3. What type of market do they think the virus



- started in?
4. What does the Latin word 'corona' mean?
 5. What are the symptoms of coronavirus?
 6. Coronavirus can be transmitted from animals to humans. True or false?
 7. What is China doing to stop the spread of coronavirus?
 8. Which organisation has declared a global health emergency?
 9. How did the BTN story make you feel? Discuss with another student.

Activity

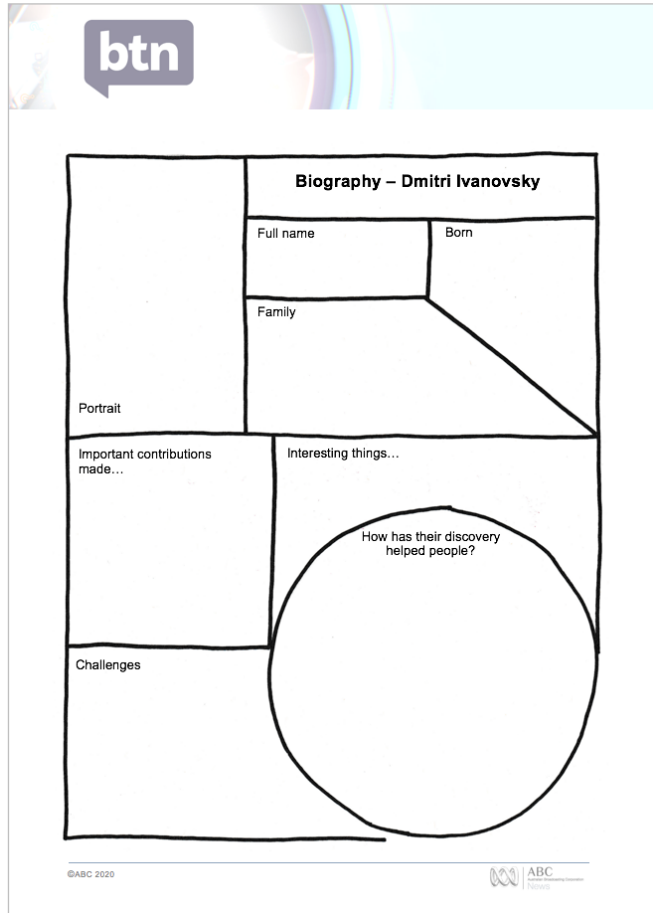
Create a biography

Using the Biography Organiser template at the end of this activity, students will find and record information about Dmitri Ivanovsky, the discoverer of viruses. Some possible areas of research include:

- Where and when were they born?
- What are some of their achievements? Choose one to explore in more detail.
- What inspired/motivated them?
- What were their challenges?
- How are their achievements recognised?
- How have they made an impact on people's lives?
- How did they change our understanding of the world?
- What do you admire about them?
- Imagine you could sit down and talk to them. What questions would you ask about their life and work?

Present your findings in an interesting way.


- Give a presentation on their achievements.
- Make a "Did you know?" for other students.
- Write a letter thanking them for their achievements and how they have changed the world.
- Create a timeline highlighting significant events.



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Biography – Dmitri Ivanovsky

Portrait	Full name	Born
	Family	
	Important contributions made...	Interesting things...
Challenges	How has their discovery helped people?	

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Useful Websites

Coronavirus Questions – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/coronavirus-questions/12024698>

COVID-19 Explained – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/coronavirus-explained/11933838>

How does a virus work? – ABC Education

<https://education.abc.net.au/home/#!/media/2238712/how-does-a-virus-work->

Portrait	Biography – Dmitri Ivanovsky	
	Full name	Born
	Family	
Important contributions made...	Interesting things... How has their discovery helped people?	
Challenges		