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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2024 Volume V: Evolutionary Medicine

Evolutionary Medicine: Pathogen (COVID-19, Influenza) and the Navajo People

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Covid19 has tragically hit many families globally. The pandemic hit families lacking basic needs for daily living like running water and electricity. These basic needs help fight the COVID-19 sickness that hits native families on the reservations. The Navajo Reservation had assistance with supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and preventative procedures. SARS-CoV-2 and the Influenza viruses were viral pandemics that devastated many populations globally.

A timeline with dates of viral episodes becoming prominent as an epidemic or a pandemic is elaborated to emphasize the historical impact of human devastation. The mutation rate of how the viruses change rapidly had medical scientists baffled and scrambling for current viral vaccines to meet the population's needs.

My unit is an in-depth analysis of the two viruses and how they impacted the Navajo people. It is ideal for fifth and sixth-grade students in the biological and physical sciences, with the Navajo culture and language portion of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will conduct an inquiry into how germs grow to complete an experiment using a petri dish with a solution.

(Developed for Science and Social Studies, grade 5; recommended for Science, grade 6)

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