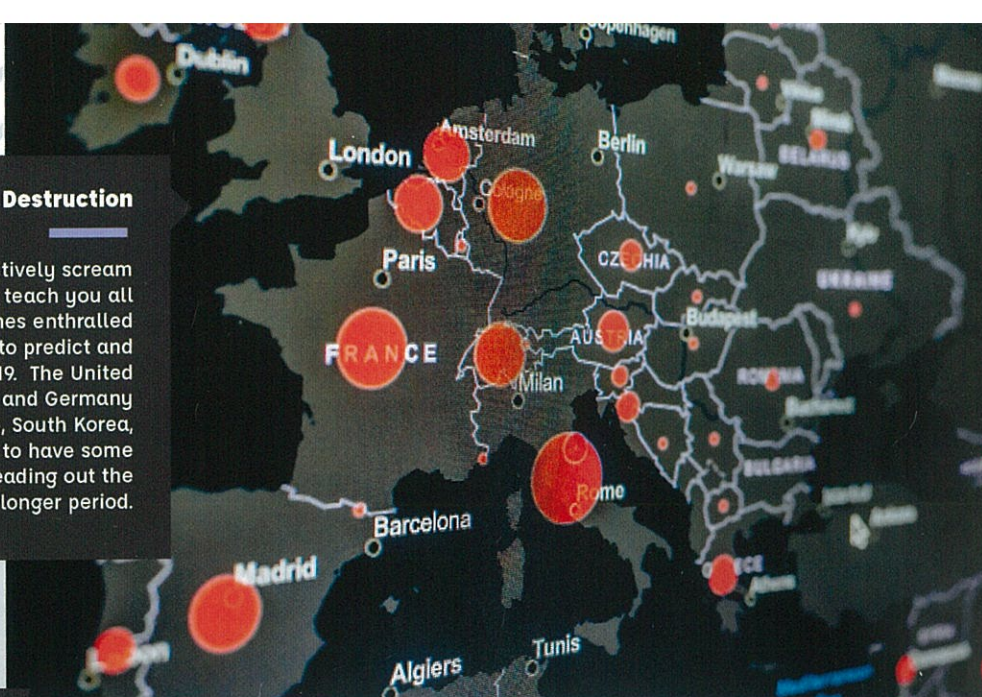


A Weapon of Math Destruction

Algebra teachers everywhere collectively scream "That's what I've been trying to teach you all semester!" when the entire planet becomes enthralled with charting exponential growth to predict and explain the rate of infection of COVID-19. The United States ranks among China, Italy, Spain and Germany as the hardest-hit. At the same time, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong appear to have some success at flattening the curve and spreading out the number of coronavirus cases over a longer period.

GLOBAL IMPACT



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The World Health Organization officially changes their classification of COVID-19 from a public health emergency of international concern to a pandemic on March 11, 2020.

The first case of the novel coronavirus is reported in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. Early cases were believed to be connected to a live animal market in Wuhan. Because the virus was thought to have originated in animals, humans have no natural defense to the virus, and no known treatments exist.

The global implications have been severe, reaching every continent except Antarctica. Many countries have closed schools and non-essential businesses. International trade has slowed to a crawl. Some countries' borders have been completely closed, and travel is being discouraged unless it is absolutely necessary.

The current outbreak of infections sparks global anxiety and concern that the virus might spread too far and too fast, causing dramatic casualties before health officials find a cure.



Source: Lewis Tse Pui Lung / Shutterstock.com

SARS Made Hong Kong Ready for Coronavirus

As the epicenter of the 2003 SARS outbreak, Hong Kong has already established emergency protocols that help them avoid the exponential increase in COVID-19 cases that other countries cannot contain. Before the first confirmed case appears in Hong Kong, their health care system is alert and prepared to: declare an emergency response level, establish quarantine stations, close schools and public events, and take tracking and testing very seriously. Despite their proximity to China, Hong Kong manages to keep COVID-19 infections and death extraordinarily low.

Treatments and Cures Still Pending

COVID-19 is a novel (new) coronavirus, which means that as this pandemic gets larger and accelerates faster, scientists are still scrambling to find treatments and vaccines. This is why it is crucial to self-isolate the healthy and quarantine anyone who has potentially been exposed.



Source: light poet / Shutterstock



Source: CHINE NOUVELLE / SIPA / Newscom

It took 7,500 laborers working around the clock only 10 days to erect a makeshift emergency hospital in China's city of Wuhan—ground zero of the coronavirus pandemic. The facility is made up of two floors, featuring several isolation wards and 30 intensive care units. It can hold up to 1,000 patients.