

NAME: _____

The influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 killed more people than the Great War, known today as World War I, at somewhere between 20 and 40 million people. Known as "Spanish Flu", that **outbreak** of influenza was a global disaster. It has been cited as the most devastating epidemic in recorded world history. More people died of influenza in a single year than in four years of the Bubonic Plague from 1347 to 1351.

In the fall of 1918, the Great War in Europe was **winding down** and peace was on the horizon. Then, something erupted that seemed as benign as the common cold. The influenza of that season, however, was far more than a cold. In the two years that this plague **ravaged** the earth, a fifth of the world's population was infected. The "Spanish Flu" was most deadly for people aged 20 to 40. This pattern of morbidity was unusual for influenza, which is usually a killer of the elderly and young children.

It infected 28% of all Americans. An estimated 675,000 Americans died of influenza during the pandemic, ten times as many as in the World War I. Of the U.S. soldiers who died in Europe, half of them fell to the influenza virus and not to the enemy.

People were struck with illness on the street and died rapid deaths. The physicians of the time were helpless against this powerful agent of influenza. A well-known anecdote tells of four women playing bridge together late into the night. Overnight, three of the women died from influenza.

1. Write a summary of the text in English, including the most important points, using your own words. (Approximately 50 words; 0.75 points). ANSWERS WILL VARY

2. Indicate whether the following statements are true or false (T/F) according to the text. Copy that part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer. (1 point; 0.25 each)

- a) The Spanish Flu killed as many people as the Great War. **FALSE. "The influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 killed more people than the Great War,"**
- b) The Bubonic Plague was deadlier than the Spanish Flu. **FALSE. " More people died of influenza in a single year than in four years of the Bubonic Plague"**
- c) The Spanish Flu was especially deadly for children. **FALSE. "The "Spanish Flu" was most deadly for people aged 20 to 40."**
- d) The doctors of the time didn't know what to do to stop the Flu. **TRUE. "The physicians of the time were helpless against this powerful agent of influenza."**

3. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here: (0.75 points; 0.25 each) a) sudden, violent start: **outbreak** b) coming to the end: **winding down** c) devastated: **ravaged**

4. Pronunciation: (0.90 points; 0.225 each [0.1125 for each correct word])

- a) Find 2 words in the text with the sound /dʒ/. **ravaged, agent, soldiers, bridge**
- b) Find 2 words in the text with the sound /θ/. **earth, fifth, three**
- c) Find 2 words in the text with the sound /eɪ/ but not for the letter -a- alone.
- d) Find 2 words in the text with the sound /z/ not in final position.

5. Complete the second sentence of each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one. You must use the word or expression in *italics*. (1.6 points; 0.4 points each)

- a) The influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 killed more people than the Great War.
More people ... **were killed by the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 than by the Great War.**
- b) Physicians of the time didn't have effective medicines at their disposal, so many people died.
If physicians ... **of the time had had effective medicines at their disposal, many people wouldn't have died.**
- c) I didn't know my grand-grandfather. He died of influenza in 1919.
I wish I ... **had known my grand-grandfather.**
- d) Mrs. Mitchell said to her daughter: "Wear your scarf and gloves in case it snows".
Mrs Mitchell told ... **her daughter to wear a scarf and gloves in case it snowed.**

6. Write a composition of about 120 words about one of these topics (2.5 points each):

- a) What do you do to look after yourself when you catch a cold or the flu? **ANSWERS WILL VARY**
- b) 'What do you think your feelings would be and how would you react if the local medical authorities told you that you had to be isolated for an uncertain period of time because of the flu this year being deadly?' **ANSWERS WILL VARY**