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**Cultural Objective:** Students will learn who various diseases affected and where they started. They will also learn if cures were developed.

**Cultural Information:** The PPT presentation will demonstrate the history of pandemics and how many lives were taken because of them. It will also show that there was no discrimination of one's nationality or on how the disease was spread from person to person or animals to humans.

I am going to explain how some of the diseases have affected people of all nations (Red, Yellow, White, Black). In 2020, we encountered the COVID-19 pandemic known as the coronavirus. It came from another country and so far from 3/11/20-9/2/21; 218 million cases have been confirmed and more than 4.53 million deaths, making it one of the largest pandemics in history. This virus has imperiled human lives and global infrastructure since the emergence. So, when I look through the lens of COVID-19, a retired LPN, educator, elder, cultural advisor and Anishinaabe Ikwe (Native Woman) I looked at all the histories of the various pandemics.

Here are a few of the pandemics throughout history that have taken many lives:

The **Spanish flu** was an influenza pandemic that spread around the world between 1918 and 1919. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide. This was just after the First World War.

**The Black Death (also called bubonic plague)**, outbreak in Europe in 1347. It was one of the most devastating pandemics in human history, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 25 to 50 million people across Europe and Asia, between 1347 to 1351. The Black Death re-surfaced in London in 1665 for the Great Plague of London. It killed 20% of London's population, in just 18-months, an estimated 100,000 people died.

The Americas escaped the Black Death because of the isolation. But when the Americas were discovered, the **Smallpox** struck. In 1518 an outbreak of smallpox in the Haiti island and left just 1,000 of the Native Indians. Then 100 years after Columbus, 90% of its Native population had died of smallpox. During that time our medicine people had only what they knew. For example, the sweat lodge which is a dome-shaped hut used for steam baths as a means of purification, and healing ceremonies. Both provided small areas to work in and also kept the disease spreading like wildfire because they were unsure what it was.

In about 1600, when the first European colonists reached Massachusetts, they found it practically uninhabited, as smallpox had killed almost all local Indians.

It is believed that through history, smallpox killed more humans than all the wars of the 20th century together. From 1877 to 1977 smallpox killed between 400 to 500 million people. By 1970, smallpox had killed 2 million people annually, but modern medicine managed to eradicate the disease through vaccination and the last case was found in Somalia, in 1977. This was possible because smallpox transmits only from human to human. The first-ever vaccine for small pox was created in 1798 by Edward Jenner.

Some of the current reviews discuss the COVID-19 pandemic situation through the lens of science from the inception of the outbreak to the current progression, which is valuable to mitigate the current pandemic situation. Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is a symptom of the virus and very deadly. The infectious cycle carries on through direct contact, air, inanimate objects, and contaminated surfaces. That is why the use of alcoholic scrubs, masks, social distancing, and quarantining the affected individual is inevitable to eradicate the infection vector and to break the transmission path. Long ago we did not know some of the methods that could keep the races safe. During that time our medicine people had only what they knew, like the sweat lodge, healing ceremonies, and small areas to work in. This kept the disease spreading like wild fire because they did not know what this was.

This was a learning process throughout history. With each disease, researchers, scientists and healthcare workers had to work together to come up with a cure to help the people. Ending the COVID-19 pandemic requires understanding as much as we can about the virus behind the disease, as well as the science behind its various effects on the body. Researchers all over the world are using this knowledge to inform the development of new treatments, to discover existing drugs that might be repurposed to fight this virus, to produce vaccines to stop the pandemic and prevent infection, and to tackle other infectious disease threats, both current and emerging.

All this comes full circle today and I remember growing up and visiting with my Elders here and on my journeys throughout the US. Talking with the elders of different Tribal nations that I have been blessed and honored to learn from them about the diseases that they had to encounter and how devastating it was to them.

This last year I lost one of my nephews whom I was very close to. I heard that his mother was not able to leave her home to touch, kiss or hug her only son goodbye. He was then cremated and his sister brought the urn to their mother's window to say goodbye.

With any disease or pandemic there are lessons that follow. We need to be cautious, safe, protect our family members, especially our elders because they are historians, teachers, educators; and also, our children who will become our leaders someday; of our way life, our medicine people, sweat lodge helpers, and lodge leaders who are gifted. Also, it is not only our Red Nation but all the Nations we need to pray for: White, Yellow, and Black. We are all here for a reason, to help one another.

#### **Author biography:**

Boozhoo, my name is Miigizi Ikwe, Wapski Makwa indoodem, Mikanock Wajii. My other name is Frances Allard, I'm from the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation in Belcourt, ND. I am Anishinabe Ikwe (Ojibwa)/Cree/Mitchif and the eldest of 8 siblings. I have two sons, an adopted daughter, a foster daughter and an adopted grandson. I have seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. I raised two other young men as well; one lives here in Belcourt and the other lives in Colorado. My father was a marine, my mother was a beautician, and when I was a child, we traveled throughout the US/Guam/Japan before returning to the Turtle Mountain home of my parents in 1959 when I was 14 years old.

I have had a lot of educational experiences, both formal and informal. I graduated from Turtle Mountain Community High School in 1963; got an LPN degree in 1974 through the Lake Region Jr. College in Devil's Lake, ND and was trained in Belcourt; completed a BA in Communication/Dance in 1985 (Missoula, Mt) during the summers I worked as a woodland fire fighter; added an AA in Chemical Dependency in 1993 and an AA in Child Abuse/Neglect in 1994 from Lummi Community College (which later became Northwest Indian College) in Bellingham, WA; and then went back to TMCC for

an AA in Commercial Art/Graphic Design in 2005; and picked up many certificates along the way. During those years, I was educated also by many Elders from different tribal nations and finally came home to Belcourt in 1995 and began my studies with all the Elders in the Turtle Mountains. I learned a lot and was honored to sit with them and learn from them. I also went to Canada to learn from the other half of my blood line, the Cree Nation. My travels took me across the US/Canada and across the ocean to Guam and Japan, learning many cultures along the way. The very first teachings I learned were the Seven Teachings of the Ojibwa, which came from my Aunt Edna Cloud who began this journey for me.

While I was in college, I learned to do research and found that very interesting. That training has become even more useful now that I am a board member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribal Nations Research Group, a board that reviews and approves all research done on the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation. There are individuals from various universities who want to do research with our Turtle Mountain people, and the board makes sure they are following the guidelines of the Tribal Nations Research Group. We are the protectors of our people in the research/data arena.

I learned to sew in high school and loved it. This is one of my gifts that I have. I design all of my regalia (the traditional clothing/accessories) that I wear for Ceremonies/Pow Wows/special occasions. Since I have moved home, I have designed and made regalia for my grandchildren and other young people as well as others who request it of me.

I am a Cultural Advisor for TMCC and ND EPSCoR. I work with 6-12 graders in ND EPSCoR NATURE camps during the summer months and ND EPSCoR NATURE Sunday Academies during the school year. I write cultural supplements for each of the STEM topics covered in the various STEM activities. If I am not familiar with a STEM topic, I do research on the topic so that I can figure out which cultural information fits best with it. This I have been doing for 22 years. I work for TMCC as an instructor, and was asked by the TMCC president and vice president many years ago to develop an archive for our artifacts by our people (clothing, tools, baskets, sculptures, etc.) for the college, which I did for 6 years. I am also currently working for the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Heritage Center for the last 3 years as an archivist/assistant for our artifacts and the tour guide to explain the historical way of life of our people here on the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation. I also do research on various artifacts in our collection to find the importance/year/geographic origin of the items.

I realize that my passion is all about what I have learned and how to give back to our families, relatives, friends, and those who want to know who we are as Anishinabe people. I am grateful for the teachings of our elders, our young people of today and my children. I am also a sponsor for those who are struggling with alcohol/drugs on a one-on-one basis, as well in the sweat lodge. I work with the youth, adults, and the elders, outside this community in all four directions.

As I look at my journey throughout my life, my vision is to work with my people in any way I can to teach what I know, and pass it on to all that are interested in our Native way of life. I live simply so that I can live in peace and harmony in nature, which means I will follow the Seven Teachings in a good way. Those teachings came from my elders and I take the lessons they taught me seriously and to heart. So, my mission is to guide those who want the Seven Teachings in their life. The Seven Teachings are Love, Honesty, Humility, Bravery, Respect, Wisdom and Truth.