

1. Choose the right option.

Did coronavirus come from a 'biological weapons programme'?

Another baseless theory _____ has appeared _____ social media is the suggestion that the virus is linked to a "covert biological weapons programme" in Wuhan or that it was smuggled from a Canadian laboratory.

Both claims have _____ evidence to support them.

The Canadian laboratory in question is the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg, _____ in 2013 investigated a new cluster of coronavirus infections.

However, _____ mentioned earlier, there are _____ types of coronavirus and in this case the lab was _____ MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome).

As for the _____ Chinese programme, some have linked the Wuhan National Biosafety Laboratory – a maximum security biolab which studies "the world's _____ dangerous pathogens" - to a Chinese biological warfare programme, but China has denied _____ such a programme and the link _____ the lab and this outbreak of coronavirus is unproven.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) _____ said early reports suggest the virus _____ at a seafood and animal market in Wuhan.

Both the CDC and the World Health Organisation are _____ investigating the cause of the outbreak, but _____ have suggested it is related to biological weapons.

2. Complete each sentence with information from the text but using your own words (about 10- 15 words of your own per sentence). DO NOT COPY LITERALLY from the text. words of your own per sentence). DO NOT COPY LITERALLY from the text.

Was coronavirus caused by Chinese people eating bats?

The exact origin of the virus is unknown at this time – although it is thought to have emerged at a seafood market in Wuhan, China.

It is also thought that the first people infected with the new coronavirus contracted it from animals, because coronaviruses are known to move from animals to humans.

A report by the Wuhan Institute for Virology found that the new coronavirus' genetic makeup was 96 per cent identical to the kind found in bats, which were also the original source of SARS.

In light of this information, videos which appear to show Chinese people eating bats have circulated over the past few weeks, with some people blaming Chinese eating habits for the outbreak.

In one widely-shared video, a young Chinese woman, Wang Mengyun, was shown biting into a bat and saying it tasted “like chicken meat”.

However, Ms Wang has since said the video was filmed in Palau, not China, back in 2017 and is not connected to the recent outbreak.

“[I] had no idea during filming that there was such a virus,” she said in an apology on Wednesday, adding that she was “just trying to introduce the life of local people.”

“I didn’t know that bat is a primary reservoir of viruses... I really did not check the information or explain its dangerous nature.”

Bats are not a particularly common food in China, according to the BBC, and the search for the exact origin of the virus is still ongoing.

People think the virus...

The first people infected with the virus are also...

It is known...

Chinese eating habits are...

A widely-shared video...

On Wednesday, Ms Wang apologised...

Covid recovery could 'tip the balance' for nature

By Victoria Gill

Science correspondent, BBC News

Environmental scientists have called for the conservation of nature to be at the centre of the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

With countries still 1.ensnared by the crisis, scientists have urged governments to make plans that "2.safeguard" biodiversity and human health" as they rebuild. The researchers published an open letter in the journal Science. "How we emerge from 3.lockdowns," they say, "will drive a new world economy." This is likely to have lasting effects on global biodiversity, the Australian authors argue. The right long-term plans, from governments and international organisations, could "tip the balance" in favour of nature.

Accidental conservation

There are some 4.striking examples of 5.upheavals that have had 6.unintended benefits for nature.

The catastrophic nuclear accident at Chernobyl in Ukraine, and the resulting exclusion zone around the plant, created an 7.unplanned 8.wilderness that has since been designated an ecological reserve.

"The Colombia Conflict, for example, created unofficial protected areas," explained Dr Ryan Pearson from Griffith University in Queensland, Australia. "This slowed environmental degradation because people were 9.fearful of entering remote areas occupied by rebels." The more recent "post-conflict" increase in deforestation there shows the need for longer-term strategies that can maintain the positive side effects of crises.

The lockdown effect

"There have been many reports of wild animals increasing in numbers and 10.turning up in places they haven't been seen for a long time," Dr Pearson told BBC News. "This carries implications that certain species may be benefiting from the 11.absence of human influence during lockdowns or possibly because of reduced pollution, especially in 12.waterways.

"We can't be sure how long such effects will last unless long-term strategies are implemented to encourage them."

There is, the scientists say, a 13.concern that the 14.rush to stabilise and grow economies may come "at the expense of the environment".

This group of environmental scientists are adding their voices to a call for a 15.greener focus as the world rebuilds.

Dr Pearson added: "We hope our letter will encourage positive strategies to support biodiversity into legislation, and the behaviour of people in their choices - in their consumption, investment, and travel.

1. Look at the words highlighted in yellow and write the numbers next to their synonyms.

shelter
fortuitous
confinements
unexpected
turbulences
environmentally-friendly
lack
afraid
outback
appearing
noticeable
worry
trapped
rivers
dash

2. Complete the sentences with the expressions in blue (Remember to use the right verb form when necessary).

1. We decided to take the raincoat as it _____ rain.

2. We were all amazed when the whale _____ the water.

3. He finally got the job. I think that his good level of English is what _____.

4. Online shopping sites _____ the current situation.

5. We cannot _____ until the lockdown ends.

6. There's a _____ change in today's health system.

7. That medicine has too many _____.

8. You shouldn't try to lose weight _____ your health.

9. That talk with her teacher had _____ her attitude.

10. I'm sure his bad behaviour _____ very soon.

LOOSE PARTS

DAVE BLAZEK



The games get pretty crazy
at English teachers' parties.