

The Day the Lines Changed

Lesson Plan:

What is a pandemic?

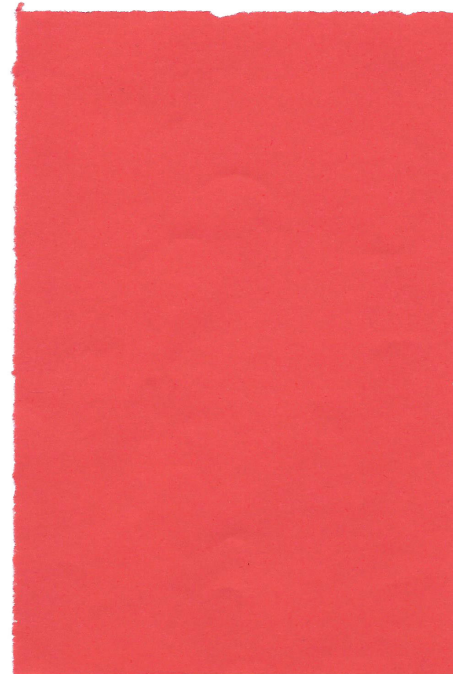
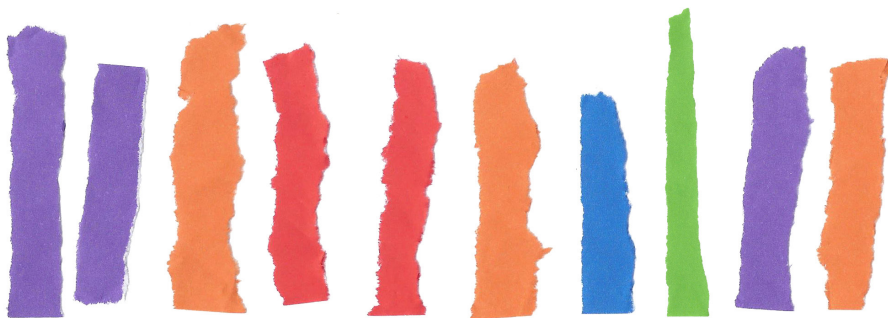
What are vaccines?

How has my life changed?

Suitable for online teaching

Best for ages 4-7

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Introduction

The Day the Lines Changed is not just a story about a green line. It is an analogy for the situation that many children are in due to the Coronavirus and requires children to use some abstract reasoning. Most children, six and under, have a limited view of the world around them and are just beginning to see the big picture. The Coronavirus, lockdown, social distancing, vaccines... all of these terms are new and difficult for young children to grasp. Therefore, The Day the Lines Changed should be used as an invitation to discuss some of these sensitive topics in a format appropriate to a child's age and developmental ability.

The Day the Lines Changed - ISBN 978-1733959582 (Available on Amazon)

Pre-Reading Discussion

Talk to your class about how the Coronavirus and the lockdown are affecting them. Here are some possible questions to ask. Use the explanation ideas if you need help.

Questions:



What is a virus? How do you get a virus?

What do you know about the Coronavirus?

What is a pandemic?

What is lockdown?

What is good and not so good about lockdown?

What do you miss about the way things were before lockdown? (optional)

How does it make you feel when others talk about the virus?

Are you worried about getting the virus?

What do you think might happen in the future?

Possible Explanation:

Viruses are a germ and are so small that they can only be seen under a microscope. They can also make you sick when they get in your mouth, nose, or eyes. When you have a cold it is often because of a virus. Viruses are quite amazing as they can also live in the air. If someone who has a cold sneezes, the virus gets blown all over the place! When this lands on things like tables, chairs, or on a person's hands, then other people can get sick, too. You can "catch" or get a virus in many ways, mostly through touching things that have the virus on them or by shaking hands. This is why the best way to keep from getting sick is to wash your hands well (for 20 seconds!) and to always sneeze into either your elbow or a tissue. A pandemic is when a lot of people catch a virus in many countries throughout the world.

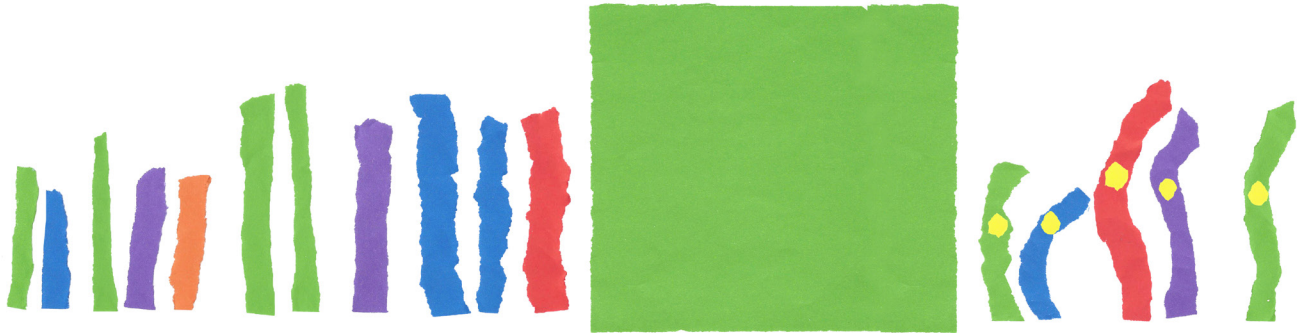
Lockdown is a funny-sounding word. In order to keep the virus from spreading, many towns, cities, and countries have put in new rules, called lockdown, to try to keep people from getting together unless necessary. They have done this to try to keep the virus from moving too fast from one person to another. During lockdown, you may not be able to go to things you normally did, like school, sports events, or family gatherings.

Read Book

Read through *The Day the Lines Changed* or play the storytime video of Kelley Donner reading her book aloud on Youtube. This can be found at: https://youtu.be/QeP5nPN_DMk

Post-Reading Discussion

Ask some of the following questions giving explanations as needed along the way depending on how much your class already knows about the subject.



Questions: The Virus

Why was the green line worried?

What happened to some of the orange and purple lines?

Why did some of the older lines fall apart?

Are you worried about getting the virus?

Are you worried about people in your family?

What do you do when you are worried or when you feel sad?

Possible Explanation

In the story, a virus causes some of the lines to turn crooked. The Coronavirus is also a virus. As it is very new, we don't know a lot about it. We do know that most children who get the Coronavirus do not feel very ill or may not feel ill at all. Most people completely recover from the virus. This is why in the story most of the lines are able to straighten out again. However, the Coronavirus does seem to affect older people more. Some have even died from the virus. This is why in the story some of the older lines fall apart. The green line is worried that this may happen to her grandmother. The lines are also put on lockdown. The green line is not able to go to school or to meet friends at the town square. The lines have put this rule into place because they are worried that other lines will catch the virus and become crooked and that more older lines will fall apart.

Note to teachers: Children's mental health is very important. Young children may worry about whether people in their family will become ill. Some children may already know people who have gotten ill or died. Please make sure that children know who they can contact if they are feeling sad, worried, or scared.*

*Information provided in this lesson plan is not a substitute for professional care by a qualified practitioner, and is not intended to provide medical advice. If you are concerned about the health and well being of you or a child, you should always consult an appropriate health care professional.

Questions: The Cure

What do you think the spot is that was discovered? (possible answers are a mask or a vaccine)

What is a vaccine?

Have you ever been vaccinated before?

What do you think will happen when most people are vaccinated?

Possible Explanation:

Finally, a spot is discovered, which stops the lines from becoming crooked. This spot works just like a vaccine. What is a vaccine? When you are sick your body creates cells which fight off a virus. These fighter cells are called “antibodies.” A vaccine tricks your body into thinking it has the virus even though it does not. This causes your body to make a bunch of fighter cells (antibodies). Then, if you actually get the virus your body is ready to fight and you don’t get sick. When you are young you receive vaccines for different viruses. These are usually given as a shot. In the story all of the lines line up to get a vaccine to keep them from turning crooked. Once they all have the spot, there is no more need for a lockdown, and the lines can live like they did before. The green line is happy again. Hopefully, when we all get our spot (vaccine), then we can also go back to the way our lives used to be.



Questions: Prevention

What can you do to prevent from getting sick?

How does a mask protect you?

What should you do if you get sick?

Possible Explanation:

Always wash your hands. Make sure you sneeze into your elbow when you have a cold or use a tissue. If you are feeling sick, stay home and take care of yourself. As long as there is still a pandemic, wear a mask when you are in contact with people outside of your family (bubble).

Note to teachers: Depending on lockdown and regulations where you live please add to this list accordingly.

Art Project:

Materials:

Collect some colorful pieces of paper. This can be construction paper, newspaper, wrapping paper, or any kind of paper that can be torn. You also need one sheet of white paper as your background and a glue stick.

Kelley Donner used torn pieces of paper to make the illustrations for *The Day the Lines Changed*. These are all very simple shapes. Use some paper that you have at home to make your own illustration about what your life is like during lockdown. You could make a picture of your family, your house, or anything that shows what life is like for you right now.



now.

Here is an example of a picture done by Kelley's son Max, who is six years old. Max used bright gold paper for the sky, black and white paper for the house, and green for the grass. Max is the blue line in the window. His mom is the pink line outside. The two white lines are his brothers. Max's dad is on the

roof! As you can see, your picture can be as bright and colorful as you would like.

Kelley has also shared another illustration. This is one she did using torn paper to show two friends

waving at each other. The black line represents lockdown meet.



Writing Project:

Write a few sentences about what it is like for you during lockdown. What do you do every day? What do you miss doing? How is your life different than it was before?

Conclusion:

Kelley is collecting artwork and stories for her website kelleydonner.com. Please send artwork (as jpegs), stories (as word documents or pdfs), and any other correspondence to kelley.donner@gmail.com. Thank you.