

1918 Spanish Influenza

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Individual Website

Junior Division

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The 1918 Spanish Influenza was a major turning point in medical history (“Medical Innovations...”). The global pandemic widely impacted the economy, losing billions of dollars and millions of years of life (“Influenza - Destroyer...” 367). The residents of Europe and North America were caught in the worst surge of the flu, and the dismal conditions of the countries after the First World War helped the spread of the disease (“Medical Innovations...”). Even though the tragic pandemic left the world in an unstable state, the creation of the flu vaccine influenced the research that led to many other medical innovations (Harris). The Spanish Flu was important because it became the catalyst for the creation of vaccines for other viruses and promoted further research (“Medical Innovations...”).

I chose the topic of the Spanish Flu when I was given the suggestion by my parents. I was fascinated by how people were inclined to fight the disease. I researched the Spanish Flu and came to the History Channel Website that covered almost every aspect of the pandemic. I was given a general overview of what happened. I wanted to learn how the recent COVID-19 Pandemic was different from the Spanish Flu Pandemic, and how the events from the first pandemic affected the fight to end the second pandemic. I was also interested in how the world came back from such a destructive disease that took more lives than WWI (Harris).

I began conducting my research by looking for articles written by doctors who worked in fighting the disease. I found an article from *The Survey*, a magazine written in New York. I located the index in the magazine and found several articles from 1918 that contained information on the flu virus, how the doctors were trying to hinder the spread of the disease, and how government officials were dealing with the matters of closing public areas and buildings. After finding two informative primary resources written by doctors who were fighting the

disease, I researched other articles on the internet that were about the present and how the Spanish Flu affected the medical society in which we live today.

For National History Day, I was given the choice between creating a documentary or creating a website. My choice was a website, considering the fact that I wanted to see my progress in front of me, instead of hearing and watching a documentary. For the background, having the standard black and white gives the reader the sense that the pandemic took place during the time when pictures were taken in black and white. After deciding the background, I made a new page for every section of the topic. As I progressed through the sections, I ordered the pages in chronological order. For each section, I used an image that summarized the information on the page, and gave a general outline of what the reader was about to learn.