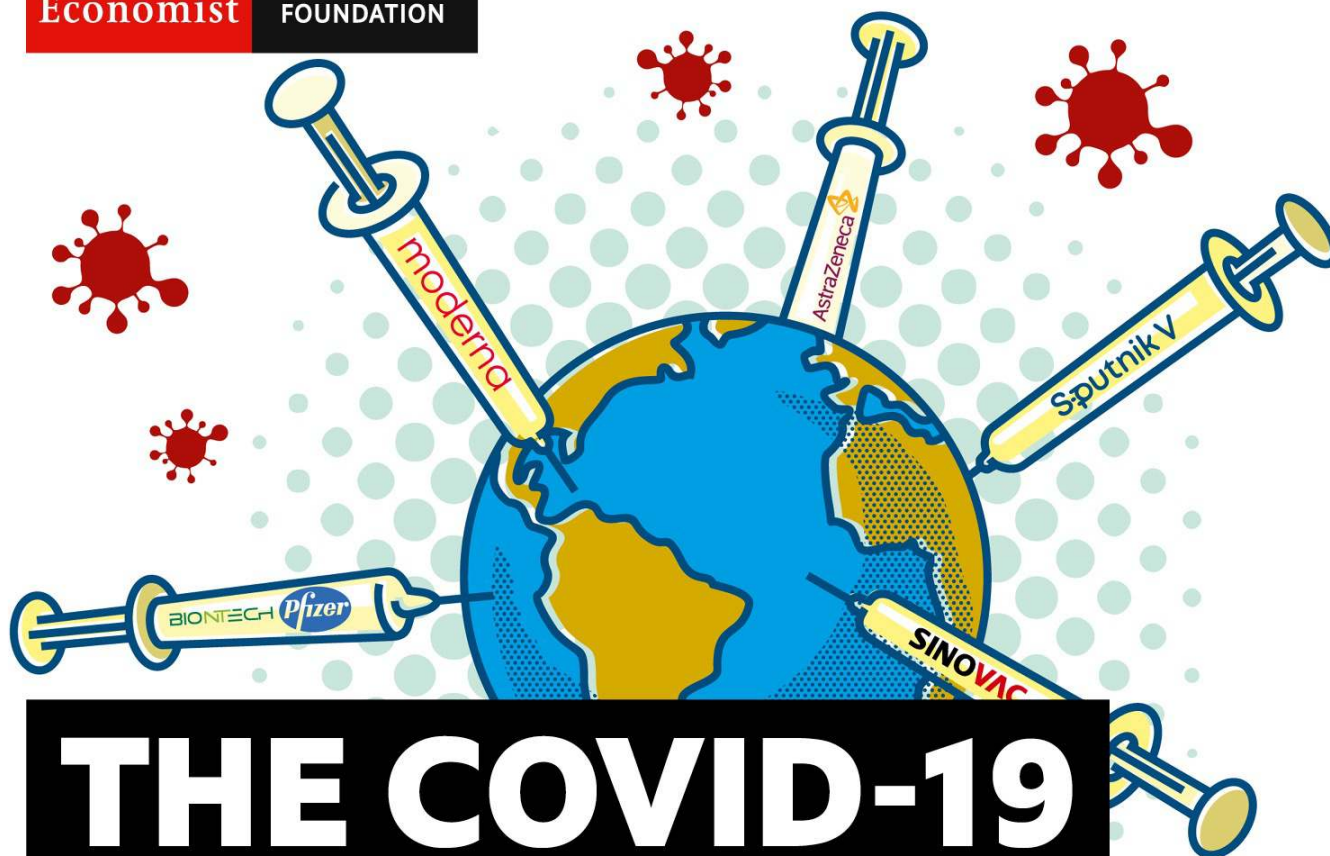


The
Economist

EDUCATIONAL
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THE COVID-19 VACCINE RACE

PART 1: IN THE KNOW

LEARNING INDEPENDENTLY?

Check out this week's
introduction video

bit.ly/NewsCycleVidApr20

KEEN TO HAVE YOUR SAY?

Share your opinion on
this week's News Cycle

bit.ly/NewsCycleApr20

KEY VOCABULARY

VACCINE / VACCINATION
= something that protects a person from diseases

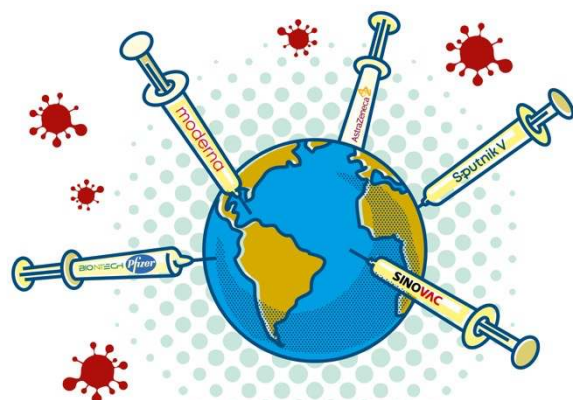
PROPORTION
= a part or share of something bigger

DISTRIBUTE
= to give something out

NEWS CYCLE

WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

What's happening in the global vaccination race?



The race between infection and injection is on. Several vaccines have been developed that are protecting people from covid-19. Now the challenge is to make enough vaccines and, importantly, to work out how to distribute them fairly.

When the first three vaccines were approved, the majority of doses had already been snapped up by rich countries - and some ordered many more than they needed.

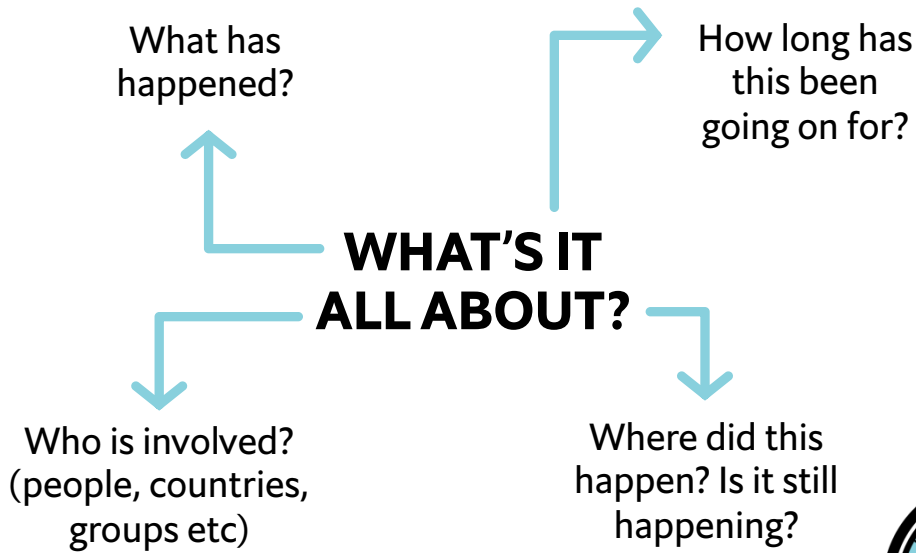
By January 2021, America had ordered enough doses for double its population and the UK had ordered enough to vaccinate its people three times over. In Canada, where the death rate has been lower than in many other countries, the government ordered five times the doses of vaccine needed.

For the pandemic to end sooner rather than later, a big proportion of the world's population needs to be vaccinated. This means every country needs access to vaccines and that countries need to work together instead of competing.

Last year, a global scheme called COVAX was created to help share vaccines between countries more fairly. Over 190 countries signed up – including many that would otherwise struggle to set up a supply. COVAX promised each country involved enough doses to vaccinate 20% of its people. For this to work, richer countries are helping to buy vaccines for poorer ones. So far, COVAX has shipped over 38 million vaccines to 104 different countries.

But whilst some countries have a good supply of vaccines and their roll-out is up and running, others have a long way to go.

Want to know more? Look here: [bbc.co.uk/newsround/56415668](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/56415668)



NEWS SCALE

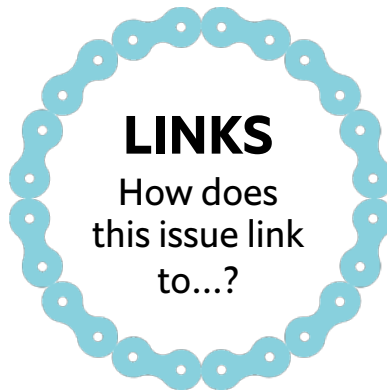
How fair is the way vaccines are being shared? Mark your opinion on the scale below with an X. What about someone who's had the vaccination? Where would they put their X? What about someone helping with the COVAX scheme?



NEWS CONCEPT:
scarcity?

Your life?

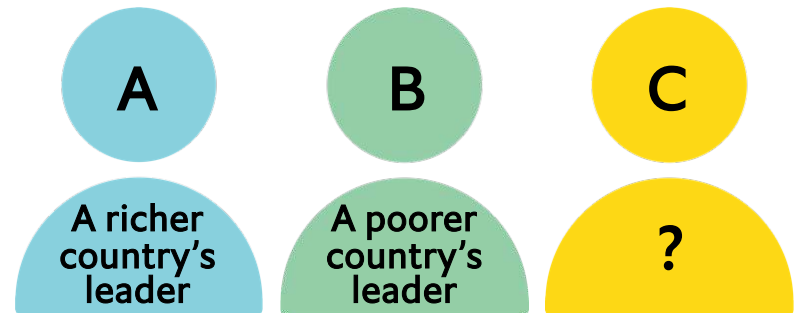
A different news story?



A school subject?

PERSPECTIVE FLIP

What would Person A think about this issue? How are they affected by the issue? Now flip to Person B and think about the same questions. Are any perspectives missing?



CHALLENGE: how is this issue developing in the news?

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THE COVID-19 VACCINE RACE

PART 2: THINKING HARDER

LEARNING INDEPENDENTLY?

Check out this week's
introduction video

bit.ly/NewsCycleVidApr27

KEEN TO HAVE YOUR SAY?

Share your opinion on
this week's News Cycle

bit.ly/NewsCycleApr27

First, limber up by thinking about everything you learnt last week:

- What was the key information about this issue? (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?)
- Why was this issue news? (How big was this piece of news? How many people does it affect? Is it global or local news?)
- What did you think about it? Did everyone you talked to have the same opinion?
- What have you seen about this in the news? How is this issue developing?

Then, take a ride through this week's activities.

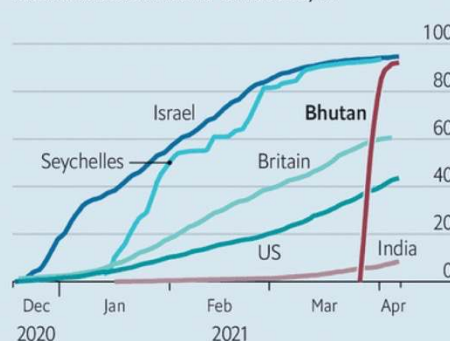
WHAT'S THE FULL STORY?

By April 2021, more than **a billion vaccine doses** had been made. There were **13 approved vaccines** for use in different countries and several others in their final stages of development.

China and **Russia** have both made vaccines that they say work and are safe - and lots of countries bought them, keen to start vaccinating their citizens. However, some experts believe that they were rushed and not tested enough to know how safe or effective they are.

A country of steep slopes

Adult population who have received at least one dose of covid-19 vaccine, %



Source: Our World in Data



Health officials in Europe have linked the AstraZeneca covid-19 vaccine with very rare blood clots. However, for most people the benefits of having the vaccine greatly outweigh the risks. Despite this, Denmark has stopped its AstraZeneca rollout completely and other countries have created age restrictions. For example, Germany, Spain, Italy and Ireland have stopped using the vaccine for people under 60.

Look at the graph showing how long it took these countries to give adults their first dose of a covid-19 vaccine.

Bhutan gave

85%

of its adult population their first dose in just one week!



TURN THE COGS

1. This issue is about more than creating vaccines. Can you explain the bigger picture?
2. Why might countries want to be first to develop a vaccine that can be used worldwide?
3. Look at the facts on the previous page. Which ones help the vaccine programme? Which ones don't?

Support your answers with a fact and explain why.

SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS



What different perspectives have you heard about vaccines?



What are the most important points to communicate about this issue?



If anything was possible, what could be done to give everyone a vaccine?



What advice would you give to world leaders about how to share vaccines?

PUSH YOURSELF

"Trust in the vaccine is what decides how many people take the vaccine."

- Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?
- Does the news make people more or less likely to trust the covid-19 vaccines?

Challenge: try to argue for both sides!

TYRE CHANGE

Brakes on! Let's change the scenario.



Countries forced their citizens to have vaccines?



More vaccines are approved?



Countries can only buy the vaccines they need?

Challenge: can you spot this issue in the news? How has the issue developed since last week?