

Opera in the Time of COVID-19

A. Reading

In March 2020, Spain went into **lockdown**. People only left their homes for **emergencies**. The Barcelona Opera House closed for three months. Many people missed the opera music.

On June 21, 2020, Spain ended its state of emergency. The Barcelona Opera House held its first **concert**. It was a full house. More than 2,000 **houseplants** filled the seats.

The Barcelona Opera House livestreamed its concert for human listeners too. Then it **donated** the plants to health-care workers.



Opera in the Time of COVID-19 cont.

B. Questions

1. What happened in Spain in March 2020?

2. Did people leave their homes during this time?

3. What did the Barcelona Opera House do in March 2020?

4. What did the people in Barcelona miss?

5. What happened in June 2020?

6. Were there people at the concert?

7. How did humans listen to the concert?

8. What happened to the houseplants?

A Centenarian Became a Celebrity

A. Reading

Tom Moore had a **goal** during the 2020 coronavirus outbreak. The 99-year-old wanted to raise £1,000 for the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK. His goal was to raise this money before his 100th birthday.

Tom Moore agreed to do 100 **laps** around his garden to **raise** the **money**. Many people donated money to the British Army veteran. 'Captain Tom' achieved his goal. He raised more than £30 million for the NHS. He also received about 140,000 birthday cards!

The Queen **knighted** Captain Tom. Michael Ball recorded a song with him. The name of the song was 'You'll Never Walk Alone'. The song became a number one hit and raised even more money for the NHS. The 100-year-old man became a **celebrity**.



A Centenarian Became a Celebrity cont.

B. Questions

1. How old was Tom Moore at the beginning of the outbreak?

2. What was Tom Moore's goal?

3. How many laps of his garden did Tom Moore agree to do?

4. Was Tom Moore in the US Navy?

5. How many birthday cards did Tom Moore receive?

6. How much money did Tom Moore raise for the NHS at first?

7. What did the Queen do for Captain Tom?

8. What did Michael Ball do with Captain Tom?

What about the Tooth Fairy?

A. Reading

At the beginning of the 2020 **pandemic**, the Canadian **government** closed all non-essential services. A seven-year-old girl from Quebec sent in a video question about this. Many kids had the same question as Raphaëlle: *Was the tooth fairy an essential service?*

Premier Francois Legault answered Raphaëlle's question: *Of course the tooth fairy was an **essential** service!* It was safe for the tooth fairy to collect teeth and leave money under their **pillows**. This made the children happy.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, a **disease** specialist in the US, agreed. He also told children that it was safe for the tooth fairy to do her job. Other leaders told children the Easter bunny was an essential service too.



What about the Tooth Fairy? cont.

B. Questions

1. What did the Canadian government do at the beginning of the 2020 pandemic?

2. What was Raphaëlle's question for the Canadian government?

3. Who was the premier of Quebec during the pandemic?

4. What was the premier's answer about the tooth fairy?

5. How did the children feel about the premier's answer?

6. What job did Dr. Fauci have at the beginning of the pandemic?

7. Did Dr. Fauci agree with the premier of Quebec?

8. What did other leaders say about the Easter bunny?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read three true, positive stories about the COVID-19 pandemic that use the simple past in context. They also answer comprehension questions. More tasks are available in the digital version, including vocabulary practice using the bold words and grammar review exercises.

LEVEL: Low Int

TIME: 1–2 hours

TAGS: verbs, verb tenses, simple past, past, COVID-19, Spain, Canada, UK, opera, elderly, charity, tooth fairy

Opera in the Time of COVID-19

1. Spain went into lockdown in March 2020.
2. People only left their homes for emergencies.
3. The Barcelona Opera House closed.
4. The people missed music.
5. The Barcelona Opera House held its first concert.
6. No, there were houseplants in the seats.
7. The opera house livestreamed the concert for humans.
8. The opera house donated the houseplants to health-care workers.

What about the Tooth Fairy?

1. The Canadian government closed all non-essential services.
2. She asked if the tooth fairy was an essential service.
3. Francois Legault was the premier of Quebec.
4. He said the tooth fairy was an essential service.
5. The children were happy.
6. Dr. Fauci was a disease specialist in the US.
7. Yes, Dr. Fauci agreed with the premier of Quebec.
8. Other leaders said the Easter bunny was an essential service too.

A Centenarian Became a Celebrity

1. Tom Moore was 99.
2. He wanted to raise £1,000 for the NHS.
3. He agreed to do 100 laps around his garden.
4. No, he was a British Army veteran.
5. He received about 140,000 birthday cards.
6. Tom Moore raised more than £30 million for NHS.
7. The Queen knighted him.
8. Michael Ball recorded a song with him.