



Page	Title	Summary and Discussion Points	Content Area
2	Smoking ban passed in UK	On April 21, UK leaders approved a law that will make it illegal for people who are currently aged 17 or younger to purchase cigarettes and other tobacco products. The ban will apply to them for the rest of their lives. What are the advantages and tradeoffs of a smoke-free culture? Should the government be able to make decisions about what you buy?	Social Studies
5	AANHPI Heritage Month is celebrated	Throughout May, the US observes Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. The month, which takes place every year, honors the descendants of Asia and the Pacific Islands and their contributions to US history and culture. Why do we celebrate cultural months? What about your culture are you most proud of?	Social Studies
15	Scientists spot a new crater on the Moon	Scientists recently discovered a large, freshly formed crater on the Moon that was made in April or May of 2024. Why do we study stars and planets? What about the moon are you most curious about?	Science
15	Paper packaging without any plastic	Packaging made from paper, rather than plastic, has advantages, including reduced carbon emissions and easier recycling. But creating a tight, leakproof seal on paper requires materials such as plastic coatings and adhesives, which make it harder to recycle or reuse.	Science
18	Teams pick players in NFL Draft	From April 23 to April 25, the 2026 NFL (National Football League) Draft was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. During the event each year, NFL teams add college football players to their rosters. What was significant about the 57th player drafted this year?	Math

FEATURE OF THE WEEK JUNIOR: Book club (page 23)

Invite students to look at this week's feature and answer the questions.

1. How much do book reviews influence your book-reading habits?
2. What makes a good book review?
3. What featured book would you most likely read, and why?
4. Select a book, and create a "Book of the Week," "Ask the Author," or "Reader Recommends" feature for it.

	DEBATE	CREATE
ARTICLE	“Should we try to live on other planets?” (page 8)	“Smoking ban passed in UK” (page 2)
VOCABULARY	strides, mission, mind-bending, civilizations	ban, parliament, vaping, generational
ACTIVITY	Distribute four index cards to each student, with the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 written on separate cards. Write or say this prompt and ask students to hold up the card with their answer, “On a scale of 1-4, with four being an absolute yes, should we try to live on other planets?” Group the 1s and 2s together in one group and the 3s and 4s in another. Challenge the 1s and 2s to list reasons we should live on other planets, and the 3s and 4s to list reasons we should not. Exchange lists and invite the other group to add reasons. Read each list aloud and invite students to repeat the introductory activity. Did any answers change? If so, what reason most persuaded students? Invite students to read the article and repeat the activity once more. Again, if answers changed, direct students to explain why. Finally, invite students to write a paragraph that explains why we should or should not live on other planets.	Invite groups to discuss the following questions: Why do people start smoking or vaping? Why do they continue if they know it’s not healthy? Why might it be hard to stop? Discuss answers. Ask the class what they know about the science of nicotine addiction. Explain that nicotine (the chemical in smoked tobacco) increases the release of brain chemicals called neurotransmitters. These brain chemicals help control mood and behavior. When you’re using nicotine, the reward center in your brain releases a neurotransmitter called dopamine. Dopamine causes feelings of pleasure and improved mood. The more you smoke, the more nicotine you need to feel good. Nicotine quickly becomes part of your daily routine and affects your habits and feelings. They can learn more here . Invite groups to create a 30-second script and video to convince teens not to smoke or vape. They must include at least two scientific facts and persuasive techniques such as ethos, pathos, or logos . Invite groups to share their videos and vote on the most effective one.
EXTEND	Explore life on Mars.	Watch the best advertisements of all time.

	CONNECT	ACT
ARTICLE	“AANHPI Heritage Month is celebrated” (page 5)	“Paper packaging without any plastic” (page 15)
VOCABULARY	heritage, descendants, proclamation, immigrants	carbon emissions, recycle, sealant, chemical reaction
ACTIVITY	Challenge groups to list regions of the world that are honored during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. Regions include East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Pacific Islands, Native Hawaii, and Australia. Students can learn more here . Invite student groups to learn about and create a lesson on a cultural tradition within the AANHPI community. Examples include origami, luau, hula, lion dance, Filipino folk dance, henna, haiku, Samoan weaving, cooking a recipe, making carp kites, paper lanterns, or shadow puppets. They must research the tradition, its country of origin, its significance, the materials needed, and the steps to complete. Then they must design a 5-10-minute lesson plan to teach other students about the cultural tradition they have researched. Their lesson should include an introduction, a demonstration step, and a hands-on component.	Ask students what role food packaging plays in our food supply system (preserves and protects food, prolongs shelf life, makes transport easier, and maintains freshness and quality). Then ask how food packaging impacts our environment . Introduce the terms “ recyclable ,” “ compostable ,” and “ biodegradable .” Show students different types of food packaging and challenge them to sort them into categories: recyclable, compostable, or single-use. Why might a company use single-use packaging? Challenge student groups to design a sustainable food container for a favorite food that is functional, recyclable, or compostable, and that appeals to their age group. Encourage them to think about shape, durability, ease of use, and environmental impact. Direct groups to present their designs, explaining what food it’s for, what materials they used, and why it’s sustainable. Invite peer feedback about what designs worked best and why.
EXTEND	Visit the Smithsonian Asian American Pacific Center.	Take a virtual field trip to a recycling center.

* Note: On your computer or mobile device, click or tap blue links to access linked content.