



Page	Title	Summary and Discussion Points	Content Area
2	Gas and airport challenges in US	Millions of Americans are facing transportation and travel challenges, with fast-rising gas prices and long waits in security lines at airports around the country. What factors are causing the transportation and travel challenges? How, if at all, does this relate to your life?	Social Studies
4	Judge rules in favor of press freedom	On March 20, a federal judge ruled in favor of journalists in a lawsuit (legal dispute) filed against the Department of Defense (DOD, the US agency that oversees the armed forces). The DOD had attempted to limit what the media could report about the military. What does freedom of the press mean? Why do you think the framers included freedom of the press in the First Amendment?	Social Studies/ELA
5	WNBA pay agreement reached	The Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and Players' Association (WNBPA) have agreed to a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) that will increase the pay of WNBA players. Do you think NBA and WNBA players should be paid the same, and why? In addition to higher salaries for WNBA players, what else is included in the new collective bargaining agreement?	Social Studies/Math
11	Restoring forests to bring back tigers	Conservationists planted more than 37,000 trees in Kazakhstan in 2025 as part of an effort to reintroduce tigers into the country by restoring their habitat. Why are tigers endangered? Why do conservationists want to reintroduce tigers to Kazakhstan?	Science
19	Flag Football Classic is held	Stars of the NFL (National Football League) faced off against the best flag football players in the world in a new event called the Fanatics Flag Football Classic on March 21. How do flag and tackle football differ? Why do you think flag football is being introduced as a new Olympic sport?	Social Studies

FEATURE OF THE WEEK JUNIOR: Animal of the week (page 11)

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

1. Before reading, what do you know about the lifespan, habitat, size, and diet of the Honduran white bat?
2. What fact or facts from the article most surprised you and why? What are you still curious about?
3. Why is it important for us to know facts like these about animals?
4. Choose an animal you are curious about, conduct research, and create an "Animal of the week" feature of your own.

	DEBATE	CREATE
ARTICLE	“Should we always root for the same team?” (page 8)	“Worldwide bird count completed!” (page 3)
VOCABULARY	loyalty, diehard, fandom, rival, allegiance	research, species, ornithology, diversity
ACTIVITY	Ask students to share their favorite team's name. Then, ask them to share what, if anything, it would take for them to root for a different team in the same league or division. Invite volunteers to share answers. Hang four signs in different corners of the room – one that reads strongly agree, one that reads agree, one that reads disagree, and one that reads strongly disagree. Read the prompt, “We should always root for the same team,” and direct students to move to the sign that reflects their opinion. Invite groups at each sign to discuss and write reasons for their opinion. Present opinions. Give students an opportunity to move. Next, invite groups to read the article and add to their list of evidence/reasons. Invite groups to present their new information. Again, give students an opportunity to move. Finally, invite students to summarize their argument in 10 words or fewer. Give students an opportunity to move one more time.	Ask students which attributes might help them identify a specific bird species. Examples might include color, size, plumage, beaks, and sounds. Direct students to select a location near home, school, or in the community where they are likely to observe birds. Encourage students to visit their chosen location to observe the appearances, sounds, and behaviors of different birds. If they are able, direct them to photograph the birds they see from multiple angles. Alternatively, they can sketch the birds and take notes on each one's attributes. Challenge students to identify the birds they observed using tools like Merlin Bird ID , Google Lens , or Bird Finder . If apps fail, they can also go to the Cornell Lab . Direct them to count the birds they observed and identify each species. Discuss: Which location and time of day presented the most species? How many different species did the entire class observe? What characteristics helped them identify the birds? How do observations like this help scientists better understand bird populations?
EXTEND	Learn more about the history of sports.	Compare your results to the Great Backyard Bird Count.

	CONNECT	ACT
ARTICLE	“Judge rules in favor of press freedom” (page 4)	“WNBA pay agreement reached ” (page 5)
VOCABULARY	journalists, media, First Amendment, restrictions, unconstitutional	collective bargaining, salary, negotiations, advocate, broadcasting
ACTIVITY	Challenge students to name and describe the five freedoms outlined in the First Amendment (speech, press, religion, assembly, petition). Hang flip-chart papers around the room with the following questions on them, and challenge students to move from sign to sign, writing answers to the questions on each paper: What does a free press mean to you? Why was a free press important to our founders? Why is a free press important today? Should press freedom be absolute, or should there be limits? Direct students to review answers on each sheet and capture answers they agree with, have questions about, and any patterns. Challenge student groups to hold a discussion and reach a consensus on the answer to each question. Direct students to read and annotate the article, identify how freedom of the press was challenged, who challenged it, and whether they agree or disagree with the decision.	Explain to a male and female student that you have a hypothetical job for them to complete, and you will pay the male student \$100 and the female student \$85 for completing the same task. Open the floor for discussion, inviting students to share their immediate reactions about how this makes them feel and if they think this is fair. Provide a brief overview of what the gender pay gap represents, emphasizing that women earn, on average, around \$0.85 for every dollar earned by men. Highlight that this statistic can vary by industry, experience, and other factors. Direct students to this article to learn more about the gender pay gap in specific industries. Discuss: Is there any industry where they believe men and women should be paid differently, and why? Invite student groups to complete a 3-2-1 activity by identifying 3 factors that contribute to the gender pay gap, 2 societal stereotypes that influence pay disparities, and 1 action they believe can help close the gap. Share answers.
EXTEND	Track press freedom incidents across the US.	Learn more about the WNBA.

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