



Page	Title	Summary and Discussion Points	Content Area
2	East Wing of White House torn down	On October 20, workers began tearing down the East Wing of the White House. A large ballroom will be built in its place. The construction is one of the largest and most controversial changes in the building's history. Why is the ballroom being built? Why is this construction controversial?	Social Studies
3	Number of rare whales increases	Conservation experts announced on October 21 that the population of the North Atlantic right whale had increased, which was good news for the critically endangered species. What does it mean when a species is endangered? Can you name other endangered species?	Science
4	Candidates prepare for Election Day	As Election Day approaches on Tuesday, November 4, candidates are making their final pitches to voters. People across the US will be electing leaders at the state and local level, and some will vote on proposed laws or changes. Can you name a candidate who is running for election? What is the most important issue to you?	Social Studies
14	Awards given for silly science	The 2025 Ig Nobel Prizes were awarded in a ceremony at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The awards, inspired by the prestigious Nobel Prizes, are intended to spark people's interest in science by recognizing research that "makes people laugh, then think." What do you think is fun about science? Which experiment in the article would you like to try?	Science
11	Thrilling start to NBA season	On October 21, the 2025–26 NBA (National Basketball Association) regular season tipped off. The Oklahoma City Thunder are the reigning champions and are expected to have a strong chance of defending their title. What is your favorite sport to watch? What is your favorite NBA team, and why?	Social Studies

FEATURE OF THE WEEK JUNIOR: Around the world... (pages 6 and 7)

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

1. Why is it important for us to know about news events that happen in other parts of the world?
2. Which featured city would you most want to visit, and why?
3. Which story are you most curious about? What information would you like to know?
4. Which story most impacts your life?

	DEBATE	CREATE
ARTICLE	"Should we still use nicknames?" (page 8)	"A creative tradition of paper folding" (pages 12 and 13)
VOCABULARY	variation, cultures, mashup, affection	Origami, custom, three-dimensional, scholars
ACTIVITY	Introduce students to a snowball activity to help them consider different perspectives in this debate. On the board, write, "Should we still use nicknames?" Distribute five sheets of white paper to each student. On the first sheet of paper, ask students to write one reason that we should still use nicknames, a variation of a person's name. Crumple up the papers and throw them in the center of the room. Invite students to select a "snowball" to read and determine if they agree or disagree. Repeat the exercise with students writing a reason we should not use nicknames. Then, invite students to read the article and repeat the exercise using the evidence from the article to support both points of view. Finally, invite students to use the last sheet of paper to write their opinion on the debate and the reasoning behind that opinion.	Invite student groups to read the article to answer these W/H questions: What is origami? What is the origin of the name? What is its cultural significance? Where was it first practiced? Who practiced it? How is it created? Why has the artform lasted so long? Invite each group to share answers with another group. Distribute paper for three rounds of origami. In round one, challenge them to create a simple shape, such as a triangle or diamond, by folding the paper. Have a partner guess the shape. In round two, challenge students to use origami to create a paper airplane and try to launch the airplanes, once completed. Finally, in round three, challenge students to select a photo or object in the classroom and try to create an origami model of the subject or object. Invite a partner to guess what object was created. Finally, invite students to reflect on the exercise. What did they learn about origami?
EXTEND	Learn about the most notorious nicknames in history .	Visit an origami museum .

	ACT	CONNECT
ARTICLE	"How to..." (page 24)	"Candidates prepare for Election Day" (p. 4)
VOCABULARY	mission, donation, organization, document	midterm, candidates, legislatures, redistricting
ACTIVITY	Write this prompt on the board, and direct students to finish it on a piece of paper, "We should help others because ..." Discuss answers. Ask students for ideas of how they can directly help others in their communities. Read the article, and ask student groups to brainstorm different types of drives they could organize to help others in their community, such as a coat drive, a mitten drive, a canned foods drive, or a toy drive. Invite each group to select and share reasons for a drive they would like to nominate for the class to organize. Invite each group to share its idea, and then vote. Using information from the article, challenge the class to organize steps they will take to organize, plan, and carry out their drive.	Invite student groups to select one of these 2025 races to learn more about: New York City mayoral race, Virginia gubernatorial race, or New Jersey gubernatorial race. Invite them to research the candidates running, whether one is an incumbent, each candidate's political party, each candidate's position on one important issue, and what current polling indicates about the race. Based on what they uncover, challenge students to predict the winner for their race and to share the evidence that led to their prediction. Invite each group to present its prediction and reasoning, and follow along on Election Day to see which predictions are correct!
EXTEND	Read about five amazing kids who are making a difference .	View a map of this year's gubernatorial election.

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