

THE WEEK

**The Week
at a
Glance**



4	Trump, Harris sprint through swing states	News	With only 10 weeks until Election Day and polls showing the race in a virtual tie, Donald Trump and Kamala Harris hit the campaign trail this week in battleground states that could decide the election.	Politics Government
5	Israel strikes at Hezbollah and West Bank militants	News	Israel and Hezbollah edged away from all-out war after their heaviest exchange of fire in months, but the region remained tense as Israeli troops launched a major military operation in the occupied West Bank.	World Studies
17	RFK Jr.: Will his endorsement matter?	Opinion	With his polls in free fall and money running out, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. ended his third-party candidacy last week and endorsed Donald Trump in return for an honorary position as co-chair of Trump's transition team and a vague promise of a role in a second Trump administration.	Politics Government
17	Abortion: Trump's stunning flip-flop	Opinion	Donald Trump is striking "a new tone" on abortion—much "to the frustration of anti-abortion advocates," said Jessica Piper in <i>Politico</i> .	Politics Government Civics
33	Education: The housing crunch comes for colleges	Business	The cost of going to some U.S. colleges has now passed \$90,000 a year at the priciest, said Jessica Dickler in <i>CNBC.com</i> , but that number only tells part of the story.	Economics

BRIEFLY: Quick Questions & Ideas To Engage Students

Arlington, Va.: Disrespect PAGE 7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is Arlington National Cemetery such a special place to our country? According to the article, why is Arlington National Cemetery in the news this week? 2. What does federal law dictate about political activities in the Cemetery, and why? 3. What is your opinion on this news story?
La Grande-Motte, France: Synagogue arson PAGE 8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is antisemitism? Why do you think has there been an escalation of antisemitic attacks in France? 2. What are the historical origins of antisemitism, and how has antisemitism changed throughout history? 3. How do you recognize antisemitism today? When your community has encountered antisemitism, what measures have people taken in response?
RFK, Jr.: Will his endorsement matter? PAGE 20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is an endorsement, and what is the significance of endorsements in political campaigns? 2. What do you know about RFK, Jr? Why is his endorsement of Donald Trump so significant? 3. According to the article, what is the response of the Kennedy family to this endorsement? 4. How would you answer the question in the headline: Will his endorsement matter? Explain your answer.

FEATURE OF THE WEEK: The Cover

Invite students to look at this week's cover and answer the questions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the illustration on this week's cover. 2. What story from this week's issue does the cover image represent? 3. What do you think the illustrator's point of view is about this news story? 4. What techniques does the illustrator use to represent his or her point of view?
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MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #1: Based on the article, "Trump, Harris sprint through swing states" (p. 4)	
VOCABULARY	battleground, erode, dwindling, margins, rallies, conspiracy, momentum, vacillating, negotiations, candidacy, aspirations, lofty, cipher, conservative, socialist, pundits
DISCUSSION	1. What role does the Electoral College play in deciding who is president? 2. What issues would most influence your vote in the 2024 presidential election?
DO	1. Write the terms, "swing state," "battleground state" and "purple state" on the board, and ask students what they think these terms mean. A swing state is any state that could reasonably be won by the Democratic or Republican candidate in a statewide election, most often referring to presidential elections, by a swing in votes. Battleground state and purple state mean the same thing but with a slightly different reference. 2. Challenge student groups to guess how many swing states there are in the 2024 presidential election. The answer is 7. Then, challenge them to list the 7 swing states. Answers: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Explain that the swing states can vary by election. 3. Ask students what they know about the Electoral College. Explain that the Framers established the Electoral College in Article II of the Constitution. It is made up of 538 electors. Each state gets an elector for each member of Congress from that state. That is one for each member from the state in the House of Representatives (which is based on the population of the state) and two more for the state's two senators. In most states all the electors are awarded to one president, based on how voters vote. Even if one candidate won by a single popular vote, they would get all the electoral votes. So, it is possible that one popular vote in California could make the difference of 55 electoral votes. There are two states, Maine and Nebraska, that split up the electors between the candidates. When a presidential candidate receives a majority of the electoral votes (270), he or she wins the election. Ask students how swing states and the Electoral College impact each other. 4. Direct student groups to this interactive map about the 2024 presidential election that shows which states are safe, likely, leaning one way, and still a toss-up, and their related electoral votes. Direct them to create a table with five columns: in the first column, list each swing state; in the second, use the map to list the results from the 2020 election; in the third, research and document data from at least two current polls related to the state; in the fourth, research and list issues that could impact the outcome in 2024; and finally, in the last column, list which candidate they think will win the state and ultimately the election. Once their table is filled in, invite each group to pair up with another group and compare data. 5. Bring the class back together and invite all groups to share and defend their swing state and election predictions.
EXTEND	Encourage students to imagine that they must advise one of the candidates on how to win one of the swing states. Challenge them to develop 3-5 strategies for how they can win, based on what they have learned.

MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #2: Based on the feature, "Pick of the week's cartoons" (pp. 18 and 19)	
VOCABULARY	symbolism, exaggeration, labeling, analogy, irony, persuasive
DISCUSS	1. How can political cartoons serve as primary sources for helping us learn about the past? 2. What do you think makes an effective political cartoon?
DO	1. Direct students to the "Pick of the week's cartoons" featured on pp. 18 and 19. In small groups, challenge them to answer the following questions about each cartoon: What do you see in the cartoon? What news story is being illustrated in the cartoon? How, if at all, did the cartoon help you better understand the news story? What point of view is the cartoonist trying to convey? 2. Lead a discussion about political cartoons. Challenge students to identify what makes political cartoons different from other cartoons, why they are used, and what, if anything, makes an effective political cartoon. Explain that political cartoons are cartoons that make a point about a political issue or event. Their main purpose is not to amuse readers but to persuade them. A good political cartoon makes readers think about current events, but it also tries to sway their opinion toward the cartoonist's point of view. The best political cartoonists can change people's minds or make them think deeply about an issue simply by the image and captions used. 3. Looking back at this week's cartoons, challenge student groups to identify techniques the cartoonist used to express his or her point of view and try to persuade others. Introduce the following techniques to students, and challenge them to identify which ones were used in this week's cartoons: symbolism, exaggeration, labeling, analogy, and irony. Which cartoon do students think is most persuasive, and why? 4. Finally, invite students to select an article in this week's issue and create a political cartoon that both illustrates their points of view and tries to persuade others to feel the same. Challenge them to use at least two of the techniques they learned about.
EXTEND	Invite students to review and analyze additional cartoons from <i>The Week</i> .

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