THE WEEK



April 14, 2023 Issue 1125-6

The Week at a Glance The Week at a Glance	4	Trump arraigned on 34 felony counts	News	A somber Donald Trump was arraigned in a Manhattan courtroom, where he pleaded not guilty to 34 felony counts stemming from hush money he paid during the 2016 campaign.	Legal Studies Government
	5	Global outcry follows Russia's arrest of U.S. journalist	News	Secretary of State Antony Blinken demanded the release of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, detained in Russia on charges of espionage, in a call to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.	Government Civics
	7	Tallahassee: Concealed carry	News	Florida became the 26th state to allow concealed carry of a firearm without a permit, after Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis urged the GOP-controlled legislature to go further and allow permitless open carry.	Government Civics
	16	National debt: Will the U.S. stumble into default?	News	The U.S. hit its \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling in January, and the Treasury Department's stopgap funding measures will be exhausted this summer. A U.S. debt default would trigger a "global financial meltdown," but President Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy can't agree on a solution.	Economics Government
	17	Patriotism: No longer 'very important' to most	Opinion	A recent poll from <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> and NORC, a nonpartisan research organization, revealed that values such as patriotism, religious faith, having children, and community involvement are rapidly becoming less important to Americans.	American History Civics

BRIEFET. Quick Questions & Ideas to Engage Students					
Millions to lose Medicaid coverage PAGE 6	 What, if anything, do you know about the US government's Medicaid program? What does it mean to have healthcare coverage? According to the article, why are 15 million people about to lose their Medicaid coverage? Should healthcare be a right for all? Should providing healthcare for all be the government's responsibility? Is access to healthcare more important than how much healthcare costs? 				
San Francisco, CA.: Reparations PAGE 7	 What do you know about the term, "reparations" and what do you think it has to do with the word, "repair"? What proposal is being considered to provide reparations to Black Californians, and how much would the proposal cost? Do you agree that the system of enslaving Black people that was abolished through the 13th amendment has lasting consequences today? Do you believe that the US should implement a slavery reparations program? 				
ByteDance's Tik Tok backup plan PAGE 20	1. What do you think this story is about, based on its headline? 2. What do you know about how social media sites collect personal information about users? 3. Should the US government be able to ban a social media site in the US? If so, in what instance(s)? If not, why not? 4. According to the article, what is Tik Tok parent company Byte Dance's "backup plan" if Tik Tok is banned in the US?				

FEATURE OF THE WEEK: The Cover

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

- 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?

	MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #1: Based on the articles, "Trump arraigned on 34 felony counts," (p. 4) and "Trump's indictment: What it means for the GOP" (p. 6)
VOCABULARY	arraigned, felony, hush money, indictment, alleged, tryst, falsified, violated, misdemeanor, normalize, prosecutors, incite, civil unrest, unprecedented, jurisdiction, liberal, indignation erratic, flawed
DISCUSS	How, if at all, might the indictment of President Trump impact the 2024 presidential election? Why is the indictment of President Trump so significant for the political and legal landscape of the US?
DO	1. Direct students to form two circles, an inner-circle and an outer-circle, each facing each other. Explain that you will ask them a series of questions for them to answer to the person facing them. On your direction, they then will move one space to the right until they have both answered and heard answers from each person in the opposite circle. Ask these questions: (1) Is anyone above the law? Explain your answer. (2) Should presidents or former presidents be held accountable for any crimes they commit? Explain your answer. Once both questions have been answered, invite students to sit back down and discuss the exercise. 2. Ask students what, if anything, they know about the indictment of President Trump. Explain that, for the first time in history, a former president has been charged with felony crimes. Direct student groups to create a series of W/H questions they'd like to answer about this story. Then, invite them to read and annotate the articles to help them answer the questions. Challenge them to highlight information or quotes that support President Trump's indictment in one color and those that oppose his indictment in another color. 3. Invite each group to meet with another group to discuss the questions they asked and the information they uncovered. Challenge the new, larger groups to list the possible positive consequences and the possible negative consequences of this historic indictment. 4. Invite students to select one of these statements to support with evidence from the article and additional research: (1) The indictment of President Trump weakens our democracy because it shows that no one is above the law. (2) The indictment of President Trump weakens our democracy by setting a dangerous precedent for political retribution.
EXTEND	Invite students to read the full indictment that was brought against President Trump.

MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #2: Based on the articles of students' choice from throughout the issue					
VOCABULARY	othering, discrimination, bias, exclusivity, conflict, classified, diversity, us vs. them				
DISCUSS	Why do people make distinctions between themselves and others? How do people decide who is included and who is excluded from their groups?				
DO	1. On a large sheet of butcher paper, write the phrase "us vs. them." Direct students to have a conversation about the phrase on the butcher paper, but their conversation must be done in complete silence. They may silently write or draw what they think the phrase means, share examples of the phrase in their own lives or in the news, ask and answer questions about the phrase, or draw pictures that illustrate the phrase. 2. Invite students to review what's written, discuss the experience, and draw conclusions about what was written. Challenge the class to reach consensus about what "us vs. them" means. Explain to students that "us vs. them" has also been called "othering" or "classification". According to Edutopia, othering is a "human behavior that divides people into an 'us and them' by singling out some for aggression once they are branded as the despised "other." Name-calling, excluding, and incessant lies set the stage for more destructive behavior." 3. Direct student groups to create a two-column chart; in one column, challenge groups to list things that they believe cause othering and, in the other, to list the consequences of othering. Encourage them to consider consequences within a school, a community, and even globally. Invite each group to share its list with another group and challenge the new, larger group to reach consensus on the 5-8 most common causes of othering, and the 5-8 most significant potential consequences 4. Invite each group to identify at least three articles from this week's issue that illustrate othering. Articles can be about politics, national or global issues, technology, environmental issues, business, entertainment, or even pop culture. For each article, challenge the group to identify the groups, the cause(s) of the othering, and the potential consequences. 5. Have each group report out, and use the examples to expand on the list of causes and consequences. Which example has the most severe consequences, and why?				
EXTEND	Challenge students to come up with strategies that build a culture of respect and forgiveness in your school by developing an upstander culture to eliminate the behavior of "othering."				

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