

	Page	Title	Summary and Discussion Points	Content Area
	2	World Cup competition is set	The draw for the 2026 FIFA World Cup was held at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, on December 5. The process determines the matchups at the most important tournament in international men's soccer, which will take place in the summer of 2026.	Social Studies
	3	Poet named UNICEF Ambassador	Author, activist, and poet Amanda Gorman, age 27, was named a UNICEF Ambassador on December 1. UNICEF is a global agency created by the United Nations (group of 193 nations working for peace) to protect children's rights and health.	ELA
	4	Land returned to Native American tribe	Hundreds of acres of land located along the western edge of Yosemite National Park in California has been returned to its original occupants, a Native American tribe that had been displaced from the area about 175 years ago.	Social Studies
	12	Tiny chip helps blind patients see	In a major breakthrough, scientists are helping people with impaired vision see again by inserting tiny wireless electronic chips into the backs of their eyes.	Science
	18	New map explores the Roman Empire	At its peak, the Roman Empire (8th century BCE to 476 CE) spread across land that makes up 50 different countries today. One source of the the empire's power was its extensive network of roads. Recently, researchers created a map of the roads called Itiner-e.	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 the feature, what do you know about the Elephant Shrew?
2. After reading the feature, what did you learn?
3. What most surprised you?
4. What are you most curious about related to these mammals?

	DEBATE	CREATE
ARTICLE	"Is hot chocolate better than chocolate milk?" (page 8)	"Winning artwork" (pages 14-17)
VOCABULARY	beverages, variations, iconic, classic	submissions, impressed, composition, vivid
ACTIVITY	Ask each student to take out a blank piece of paper. Tell students to use evidence from the article to support or refute the claim, "Hot chocolate is better than chocolate milk," and write their responses on the paper. Once all students have written down their responses, ask students to crumple their pieces of paper into a ball and, on the count of 3, have everyone throw their "snowball" into the air! Have each student pick up a snowball, open it, and read. Tell students it is their turn to add more information to the snowball they picked up. Explain that this could be a supporting detail to the original statement or a rebuttal. Repeat snowball throwing, picking up, and adding information two more times. Invite a few students to share the discussion from their snowball.	Readers were invited to create a cover for the magazine that celebrates the winter season along with the spirit of <i>The Week Junior</i> . Guide students to view the finalists and winners and select their favorite submission. Tell students to close and open their eyes and share with a partner what their eye is drawn to first in the image they selected. Then ask partners to discuss the following questions: What is reflected in the image? What is the subject of the image? What story do you think the artist is trying to tell? How does the image reflect the spirit of <i>The Week Junior</i> ? What message was the artist trying to communicate? Challenge students to create their own covers that reflect the season and the spirit of the magazine.
EXTEND	Vote on this debate!	Learn about the elements of art.

	CONNECT	ACT
ARTICLE	"Land returned to Native American tribe" (p. 4)	"How to" (pages 24 and 25)
VOCABULARY	Displaced, migration, evicted, homeland	solstice, yule, gratitude, Hygge
members to help protect it. ACTIVITY	Direct students to create a 3-2-1 about the land that was returned to the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, using information from the article and related websites. First, challenge them to identify 3 reasons the land was returned. Then, challenge them to identify 2 reasons this act is so significant. Finally, challenge them to choose 1 question they still have. Encourage students to learn more about the 574 federally recognized tribal entities at this site . Repeat the 3-2-1 but this time challenge them to find three tribal entities in their state or a neighboring state, 2 facts about each entity, and one question they still have.	Brainstorm reasons why the holiday season can be challenging for some people. Think of emotional, financial, or social factors that might contribute. Ask students to list actions they can take to brighten someone else's holiday season such as sending a card, volunteering, or sharing a kind word. Have each group share their lists with the class to foster discussion and gather a diverse range of ideas. Challenge the students to create a project titled "10 Ways to Help Others During the Holidays." This could be a coloring book, pamphlet, poster, social media post or video, or other creative idea. The only requirement is that the project must include 10 actionable ideas for how individuals can uplift the spirits of others in their school or community.
EXTEND	Learn what indigenous lands you are on.	Make a difference in your community.

* Note: On your computer or mobile device, click or tap blue