



Page	Title	Summary and Discussion Points	Content Area
2	Clashes escalate in Minneapolis	Anger and unrest are growing across the US after two fatal shootings by federal agents in Minneapolis, Minnesota, less than three weeks apart. What else have you read, seen, or heard about the shooting and the protests that followed? What is your reaction to President Trump's deportation goals in general?	Social Studies
4	Major snowstorm sweeps across US	Winter Storm Fern dumped heavy snow across the US, from New Mexico to Maine, bringing treacherous ice and frigid temperatures that have affected more than 200 million people. How, if at all, did the snow affect you? Why and how are winter storms named?	Science
12	Let the Winter Games begin!	The Winter Olympics officially begin in Italy, in the city of Milan and the town of Cortina d'Ampezzo, on February 6, in a celebration of snow, skill, and speed. How are the host cities selected? What is your favorite Winter Olympic event?	Social Studies
16	Ancient ape species walked upright	A small bump on the leg bone of an ape species that lived about 7 million years ago indicates that it was bipedal (able to walk upright on two legs), according to a new study. Why do we study ancient species?	Science
18	Patriots, Seahawks make Super Bowl	The New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks are headed to a rematch of the 2015 Super Bowl. What, if anything, is your favorite part about the Super Bowl? Which team do you predict will win, and why?	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. What, if anything, do you know about the Big Cypress fox squirrel?
2. What fact from the article is most surprising?
3. What makes you curious about the Big Cypress fox squirrel?
4. Select an animal that is native to your community, and create your own "Animal of the week" feature.

	DEBATE	CREATE
ARTICLE	"Should law enforcement use robot dogs?" (page 8)	"Let the Winter Games begin" (pages, 12, 13, 14, and 15)
VOCABULARY	enforcement, dynamic, defuse, agencies	disciplines, stoats, prosperous, picturesque
ACTIVITY	<p>Ask students what, if anything, they know about how police departments are using robot dogs. Record responses. Watch the video to build background knowledge. Divide students into groups of four and explain that they will play a discussion game called "I Couldn't Disagree More." Pose the question: "Should law enforcement use robot dogs?" One student starts by answering the question with an opinion and at least one reason. The student to their right responds by saying, "I couldn't disagree more..." and presents the opposite position with their own reasoning. The third and fourth students continue the discussion, each time taking the opposing stance from the speaker before them. After the first round, invite students to read the article. Then have groups play the game again, encouraging them to revise or strengthen their arguments using evidence and new information from the text.</p>	<p>Invite student groups to create a predictive medal tracker for the Winter Games. Direct each group to select five countries to follow, including the US. Using information from the article, this site, and this site, challenge groups to predict how many gold, silver, and bronze medals their countries will win and in which events. Once their predictions are made, have each group create a visual representation of their predictions that includes the nations' flags and then share and explain their predictions with another group. Throughout the Winter Games, direct each group to track its predictions. When the Winter Games conclude, challenge each group to calculate the percentage of correct predictions, and determine which group had the highest percentage of correct predictions.</p>
EXTEND	Read 9 ways that robot dogs are helping humans.	Learn about the history of the Winter Games.

	CONNECT	ACT
ARTICLE	Children's book prizes announced (page 5)	"Polar bears adapt to change" (page 10)
VOCABULARY	publish, prose, grieving, historical fiction	climate change, adapt, genes, mechanism
ACTIVITY	<p>Send students on a web quest to learn more about the Newbery Medal, discovering who the medal is named for, when it began, what it recognizes, how it is chosen, and which books won this year. Invite student groups to read at least two books that have won the Newbery Medal and analyze them based on criteria (plot, character, setting, voice). Can each group reach consensus on their favorite? Invite spirited discussion. Direct students to create a time capsule for their favorite Newbery Award winner that includes 3 artifacts related to the story, a summary, and a character description. Using the time capsules, create a Newbery exhibit for others in the school to visit.</p>	<p>Brainstorm answers to this question, "How does climate change impact polar bears"? Discuss. Encourage students to read the article and go here to learn more. Then, brainstorm answers to this question, "How can my actions impact polar bears?" Hint: It has something to do with our use of energy. Using strips of paper and glue sticks, challenge students to create cause and effect strips that show the connection between their use of energy and the impact to polar bears. Direct them to form at least 5 interconnected links that start with something they use that requires energy and end with impacts to polar bears. Ex: Example: Video games → Electricity → Burning fossil fuels → Releases greenhouse gases → Makes ocean temperatures rise → Melts sea ice → Polar bears lose their home.</p>
	Play the Newbery Award Trivia Game.	Take an action to help polar bears.