

THE WEEK

The Week
at a
Glance



6	Democrats: Where does the party go from here?	News	As Democrats “sift through the wreckage of their shattered coalition,” one question should jump out at them, said Ruy Teixeira in <i>The Liberal Patriot</i> : “Who is the Democratic Party for, exactly?”	Politics Government
7	Richmond, Va.: Racist provocations	News	Black people across the country, including young teens, received anonymous racist text messages in the days after the election telling them they’d been “selected to pick cotton at the nearest plantation” or “chosen to be a slave.”	Politics Civics
8	Amsterdam: Attack on Jews	News	Mobs of men, apparently responding to online calls for a “Jew hunt,” chased down and bludgeoned Israeli soccer fans in Amsterdam last week after a match between Israel’s Maccabi Tel Aviv and a local Jewish-identified team, Ajax.	World Studies Human Rights
12	Why polls missed Trump voters—again	News	“While most of the polling industry was wrong, we got it right,” said Tom Lubbock and James Johnson. Our firm, J.L. Partners was one of only two of the top 10 major pollsters that predicted a Donald Trump victory. Why did most pollsters miss a Trump victory – again?	Politics
16	Election 2024: How Trump won	Opinion	Donald Trump achieved a stunning victory over Vice President Kamala Harris, becoming the first Republican to win the popular vote (50 percent to 48 percent) in two decades and expanding his 2020 numbers in nearly every demographic—Hispanics, young voters, both urban and rural voters, and both men and women.” How did he win?	Politics

BRIEFLY: Quick Questions & Ideas To Engage Students

Sacramento Blue wall PAGE 7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does the term, “blue wall” mean in the headline? 2. According to the article, how and why did several Democratic governors vow to oppose the second term of Donald Trump? 3. What issues are highlighted that Democratic governors are concerned about? 4. What do you know about the power of the federal government vs the power of state governments?
A Trump SCOTUS until 2045? PAGE 12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does the acronym SCOTUS stand for? 2. How are Supreme Court Justices nominated and approved? 3. Do you believe that Supreme Court Justices should be nominated for life? Why or why not? 4. According to the article, how could the Trump presidency impact the Supreme Court? How do the decisions of the Supreme Court impact your life?
Sexism: Did it cost Harris the election? PAGE 17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you think this article is about, based on its headline? 2. What evidence is presented in the article that supports the claim that sexism cost Kamala Harris the election? What evidence is presented that opposes it? 3. What fact from the article most surprises you? 4. How would you answer the question in the headline?

FEATURE OF THE WEEK: 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 news story is being illustrated here? What do you think the illustrator’s point of view is on this story, based on the choices in the illustration? 3. Sketch a different illustration that shows the same or a different point of view about this news story.
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MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #1: Based on the article, "Democrats: Where does the party go from here?" (p. 6)	
VOCABULARY	wreckage, coalition, in-roads, liberals, sneering, progressive, untethered, centrists, economic, populist, greed, pragmatists, condescension, cancellation, fluent, terminology, preening, distraught, romped, niche, resurrections
DISCUSS	1. What, if anything, most surprised you about the 2024 presidential election results? 2. What do you think the biggest lessons are from the 2024 presidential election?
DO	1. Invite small groups to list what they know and what questions they may have about the Democratic Party. Direct groups to share information and questions with another group. How would groups answer these questions? Where does the Democratic Party stand on key issues? Which voting blocs traditionally vote Democratic? 2. Invite students to go here to learn where the Democratic Party stands on key issues, its leadership, and who it aims to serve. Challenge each group to write down at least 10 new facts that it learns. What, if anything, surprises them about how the Democratic Party describes itself? 3. Challenge student groups to predict whether these traditional voting blocs voted for Kamala Harris or Donald Trump in the presidential election: white voters, black voters, Latino/Hispanic voters, young voters (18-29), older voters (65+), urban voters, suburban voters, rural voters, women, and men. Then, review this article and additional sources to learn the answers. How do the results compare to their predictions? What most surprised them? 4. Write these quotes from the article on separate index cards and invite each group to select an index card to learn more about: "Donald Trump made further inroads with his base of white, working men." "(Donald Trump) improved on his 2020 vote share with Latinos, Asians, urban voters, and young voters." "Voters with household incomes below \$50,000 – and below \$100,000 broke for Trump." "On issue after issue – health care, climate, gun control, housing – working class voters prefer progressive policies to Republican ones." "Democrats in the Trump years became the party of 'condescension and cancellation." "Even at 78, Trump's comfort with new forms of media – from AI memes to niche podcasts – contrasted favorably with Harris' cautious, traditional campaign of speeches and workshopped talking points." Challenge each group to do the following, related to their quote: *Explain their quote. *List likely causes for the results or conclusions made in the quote. *Explain why their quote was significant in the results of the 2024 presidential election. *Explain how their quote may have been related to the campaign strategy for either Kamala Harris or Donald Trump. 5. Invite each group to share its information with another group. Then, challenge each new group to list three recommendations for the question in the headline: Where does the party go from here?
EXTEND	Invite students to compare the 2024 electoral map to the 2020 electoral map . What story do these maps tell?

MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #2: Based on the feature, Why polls missed Trump voters – again" (p. 12)	
VOCABULARY	polling, industry, pollsters, percentage points, margin, mixed-method polling approach, coalition, blue-collar, disengaged, biased, random-digit
DISCUSS	1. What do people need to consider when evaluating public opinion polls? 2. How much faith do you put into political polls before an election? Explain your answer.
DO	1. Distribute index cards to students, and ask them to anonymously write "yes" or "no" to answer the following question: "Who is the best musician of our time?" Collect the papers and put them aside. What musician do students' think got the most votes? Explain their predictions. Read and tally the answers. Ask if students can attribute those answers to all students at the school? Across the US? Why or why not? Ask students how this introductory exercise relates to political polling. 2. Explain to students that political polling, a type of public opinion polling, has been around for many years. The mission of political polling is to gauge the political opinion of the entire nation by asking only a small sample of likely voters. Ask students what public opinions presidential candidates might be interested in learning about. Consider which candidate they are likely to vote for, how they feel about certain issues, whether their messaging is being perceived as positive or negative, or even whether voters consider a candidate to be too old to run for office. Further explain that George Gallup was one of the first scientific practitioners of polling in the 1930's and Franklin Roosevelt was the first American president to use a private polling service to advise him on both election strategy and public policy. John F. Kennedy's 1960 campaign relied heavily on public opinion polls, and every American presidential candidate since has used polling information as part of his or her campaign strategy. 3. Ask students what factors they think would be important to ensure the accuracy of polling results. Invite them to go here to learn about representative samples, margins of error, question structure, and types of polling. Then, invite them to read this article to learn about the accuracy of political polling and here to watch a film that explains political polling. 4. What do students know about what the traditional polls predicted for the results of the presidential election vs the actual results? Challenge student groups to find one article or report that analyzes polling results to identify what the pollsters got right and what they got wrong. 6. Challenge each group to write a paragraph that answers the question from the headline: Why did polls miss Trump voters – again?
EXTEND	Invite students to review, analyze, and discuss rankings on pollster accuracy.