

Page	Title	Summary and Discussion Points	Content Area
2	Congress reaches agreement on budget	On February 3, after weeks of uncertainty and negotiations, members of the US Congress reached an agreement on the annual budget that funds the government. What elements make up the federal budget? What happens if Congress can't reach an agreement?	Social Studies
4	Milestone for Black History Month	This February, the US observes Black History Month to honor the contributions Black Americans have made to the nation. It's also the 100th anniversary of celebrating Black history. What can we learn from the resilience and perseverance of African Americans throughout history?	Social Studies
5	Native American coin released	The US Mint has released a \$1 coin featuring Polly Cooper, an Oneida woman who aided the US Army during the Revolutionary War (1775–1783). Why is it important to show diverse representation on our nation's coins? Why do you think Polly Cooper was chosen by the US Mint to be on a coin?	Social Studies
10	Great Backyard Bird Count to begin	From February 13–16, people worldwide will take part in the annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Anyone can participate by counting and identifying birds, then sharing their findings on a website or app. Why do you think this event was organized? How does citizen science help our world?	Science
14	Coral reefs keep time for ocean life	Scientists have known for years that coral reefs are important to ocean health. Now they have discovered that reefs serve as daily timekeepers, shaping the routines of the microbes around them. How are coral reefs formed? What methodology was used in the study referenced in the article?	Science



**FEATURE OF THE WEEK JUNIOR: Around the world ... (pages 6 and 7)**

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

1. Can you find all of the featured places on a world map?
2. Which place would you most want to visit, and why?
3. Which news story are you most curious about, and why?
4. Which news story most connects to your life?
5. Why is it important for us to learn about news stories around the world?

	DEBATE	CREATE
ARTICLE	"Is it OK to have ads on school buses?" (page 8)	"Milestone for Black History Month" (page 4)
VOCABULARY	exterior, shortfall, persuasive, susceptible	institutions, enslaved, abolish, indispensable
ACTIVITY	<p>Introduce the MVP criteria and explain that students will use it to identify the statement from the article that most strongly influences their opinion on the issue. Display the prompt: "It is okay to have ads on school buses." Ask students to read the article and identify a statement that aligns with their agreement or disagreement with the prompt. Once they've selected a statement, have them evaluate it using the MVP criteria: M – Main Idea: The statement clearly connects to the article's central idea or argument. V – Visual: The statement creates a strong mental image or concrete example that supports the position. P – Phrase That Stays: The statement is memorable and personally resonant. Invite students to share their MVP statements and explain how the statement influenced their thinking. Encourage classmates to listen for similarities and differences in the statements that resonated most with them.</p>	<p>Invite students to reflect on the significance of Black History Month and discuss what this year's theme, "A Century of Black History Commemorations," means. Challenge students to bring the theme to life by creating a museum exhibit that highlights Black Americans' contributions over the last century. Assign one of the following categories to groups: politics, sports, art, music, entertainment, the environment, civil rights, human rights, literature, or science and technology. Students will research notable individuals, key events, inventions, milestones, or works of art that reflect achievement and impact. Each group will design a display—such as a poster, diorama, or table exhibit—that tells a clear and compelling story about Black history in their chosen area. Select a date to host a classroom museum showcase and invite other classes and students' guardians or caregivers to attend.</p>
EXTEND	<a href="#">Learn which states</a> have approved school bus advertising.	<a href="#">Visit</a> the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

	CONNECT	ACT
ARTICLE	Grammy Awards are presented (page 5)	"Great Backyard Bird Count to begin" (page 10)
VOCABULARY	prestigious, academy, genres, resilience	ornithology, citizen scientists, observation, conservation
ACTIVITY	<p>Ask students what they know about the Grammy Awards and this year's nominees for <a href="#">Song of the Year</a>. Share the list of nominated songs and listen to each using a music-streaming app. Write the title of each song on a separate sign and hang the signs around the classroom. First, invite students to stand next to the sign for the song they think should have won the award. Record the number of students at each sign and calculate the percentage who believe each song should have won. Challenge students gathered at each sign to convince classmates at other signs to join them. Each group should present reasons why their song deserved to win. After the persuasion round, recalculate the percentages to see how many</p>	<p>Introduce the term "citizen science," explaining that it empowers everyday people to participate in scientific research by collecting data, making observations, and contributing to projects. Challenge students to brainstorm 2–3 things they are curious about—from animals and space to weather, health, or the environment. Explore a free <a href="#">citizen science website</a> and ask students to select one project to investigate more closely. Have students describe what the project is about, where it takes place, the project's goal, what type of data participants collect, and how someone like them could contribute. Encourage students to take action by either contributing to the project directly or creating a realistic action plan outlining when, where, and how they will participate. Close with a brief</p>

students changed their minds—and which arguments were most effective.

reflection on how citizen science can expand, who gets to do science—and whose voices and observations matter.

Visit the [Grammy Museum](#).

[Count the birds](#) in your backyard.

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