

THE WEEK



THE WEEK MAGAZINE
EDUCATION PROGRAM

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The Week
at a
Glance



4	U.S. moves troops as Ukraine tensions mount	News	The Pentagon put 8,500 American troops on “heightened alert” for possible deployment to eastern Europe, as the Biden administration warned that Russian military aggression against Ukraine could result in crippling technological and economic penalties and personal sanctions against President Vladimir Putin	World Studies Government
7	Washington, D.C. High court vacancy	News	Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer plans to retire, giving President Biden a chance to appoint a liberal, and potentially deliver on his campaign pledge to name the first Black woman to the court.	Legal Studies Government
12	Boycott Beijing’s brutality	News	Boycotting the Winter Olympics in Beijing has become “a moral imperative,” said Rushan Abbas. In an “eerie parallel” to the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, China is welcoming athletes from around the world even as “a genocide rages within.”	World Studies World History Human Rights Education
16	Biden: A roller-coaster first year in office	Opinion	Welcomed by Americans weary of four years of Trumpian chaos, President Biden was riding high into the spring, as vaccination accelerated, Covid receded, and the economy boomed. Now, his poll numbers have plummeted to the low 40s, “and his party is in danger of being swept out of power on Capitol Hill.”	Government American History
32	Chip shortage: Supplies down to just five days	Business	The White House issued a warning about the global chip crisis, said Ana Swanson and Catie Edmondson in The New York Times. The Commerce Department said the United States faces an ‘alarming’ shortage of semiconductors used to power cars, electronics, medical devices, and other products, with the median inventory among buyers down to less than five days.	Business Economics Technology

BRIEFLY: Quick Questions & Ideas To Engage Students

Virginia School mask wars PAGE 7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do you feel about mask mandates? 2. Do you think that students and teachers should wear masks to school? 3. How, if at all, have mask mandates become a political issue? 4. What are your thoughts about this news story?
Invisible stars: A symptom of music’s nostalgia problem PAGE 24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is YoungBoy Never Broke Again, and what does he have in common with Taylor Swift? 2. According to the article, why is YoungBoy Never Broke Again being associated with a phenomenon called “invisible music stardom”? 3 According to the article, how has the consumption of music changed over time, and what has been the impact of that change?
Education: Colleges need money, borrowers need a break PAGE 33	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you think this article is about, based on its headline? What does it mean to “forgive college debt”? 2. According to the article, what has President Biden done to date to help those with student loans? What is the difference between a loan repayment freeze and canceling student debt? 3. Based on information from the article, how does students’ ability to pay for college relate to the applicants that some colleges admit? How do you feel about this information?

FEATURE OF THE WEEK: The 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. Who is represented in the image? What symbolism is used as part of the illustration, and why? 2. What story from this week’s issue does the illustration represent? 3. What do you think the illustrator’s point of view is on this story, based on the illustration?
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MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #1 : Based on the article, "Washington, D.C. High court vacancy" (p. 7)	
VOCABULARY	vacancy, retire, appoint, liberal, nominated, moderate, unprecedented, razor-thin, conservatives, appellate, candidate
DISCUSS	1. What qualities do you think are important for a Supreme Court justice to have? 2. Do you think Supreme Court justices should be appointed for life? Why or why not? 3. What major issues that have or could reach the Supreme Court this year are most important to you?
DO	1. Distribute an index card to each student, and challenge them to list on the card as many current U.S. Supreme Court justices as they can. Try to list all nine as a class and further challenge students to identify whether each was nominated by a Democratic or Republican president. 2. Invite students to read and annotate Article III of the U.S. Constitution, where the Founders outlined the role of the Supreme Court. What do students know about the role of the Supreme Court, how justices are appointed and nominated, the types of cases they hear, and how long their terms last? Challenge students to find answers directly in Article III. Conduct additional research here and here to learn answers to any questions that remain unanswered. 3. Ask students if they know why Justice Stephen Breyer is in the news this week. Explain that he has announced his intentions to retire from the Supreme Court, giving President Biden the opportunity to nominate the next justice. 4. Invite students to read and annotate the article and discuss the following questions: Why do you think Stephen Breyer may have been "forced" to retire? What role, if any, did Justice Ginsburg's unexpected death play? Will his retirement change the conservatives' advantage on the bench? Why do you think President Biden made a campaign pledge to nominate the first Black woman to the court? 5. President Biden's pledge to nominate the first Black woman to the court has been called long overdue by some and controversial by others. Direct students to identify and research reasons behind these different viewpoints and to discuss these viewpoints as well as their own. Challenge them to use the research and discussions to complete the following sentence: President Biden (should/should not) nominate the first Black woman to the Supreme Court because _____.
EXTEND	Invite students to learn more about other historic firsts in Supreme Court nominations including Justice Brandeis, Justice Marshall, Justice O'Connor, Justice Ginsburg, and Justice Sotomayor.

MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #2 : Based on the article, "Biden: A roller-coaster first year in office" (p. 16)	
VOCABULARY	undeniably, weary, accelerated, receded, plummeted, surges, variants, unity, moderation, progressives, humbly, landslide, combat, infectious, centrists, obstructionism, infrastructure, recession, unenviable, segregationist, transformation, filibuster
DISCUSS	1. How would you characterize a successful presidency? 2. Has President Biden performed better, worse, or the same as you thought he would when elected?
DO	1. Give each student an index card, and ask him or her to write down a grade for President Biden, from A to F, for his first year in office. Ask students to fold their index cards and place them in a bowl, basket, or box. 2. Invite student groups to come up with criteria they would use if they were actually challenged to come up with a real grade for a president's performance after one year. Challenge students to generate a list of 5-10 criteria. If possible, challenge students to reach consensus with at least one other group, if possible. 3. Once students have their lists, challenge them to gather evidence of how President Biden measured against each criteria. They must have at least five sources, including the article, a part of their evidence. Their additional evidence could come from news articles or reports, polls, statistics, podcasts, speeches, etc. Further challenge them to use sources that are non-partisan and/or balanced. 4. Based on their evidence, challenge groups to come up with grades for each criteria and to roll up those grades to determine one overall grade. 5. Invite students to repeat the introductory activity and place grades in a different box. Reveal the grades in both boxes and challenge students to draw conclusions about why, if at all, the grades changed after conducting research. 6. Finally, invite each group to create a short video with advice for President Biden about how he could sustain or raise his grade for the remainder of his term.
EXTEND	Invite students to read this Politico article that grades President Biden on his first year in office.

* Note : On your computer or mobile device, click or tap blue links to access linked content. Visit www.theweek.com/teachers to see all our lesson guides.