

The Week Junior Teacher's Guide

In this issue we will learn about how the American Rescue Act Plan of 2021 will help rebuild the country and the many ways it will bring aid to the American people. Students will debate whether Peeps are delicious or disgusting. Finally, explore the history of birthdays and traditions as *The Week Junior* turns 1!



This week at a glance

Page	News	Discussion points	Article type
2	Congress passes relief bill	Compare and contrast the New Deal to the American Rescue Plan. Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.	Big News
4	Crimes against Asian Americans condemned	What happened to Japanese Americans during World War Two? Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.	National News
12	The special day we turn a year older	Explain how birthdays around the world are celebrated. Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.	All About
20	Pop culture inspires artist	Who is KAWS? Explain his journey in the art world and why he is a well-known artist. Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.	Arts & Entertainment
24	Give back on your birthday	Explain how you can use your birthday to do good for others. Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.	How To

THIS WEEK'S BIG DEBATE: ARE PEEPS DELICIOUS OR DISGUSTING?

YES—Peeps are delicious | **NO**—Peeps are disgusting

ACTIVITY:

1. Distribute index cards in person or digitally to all students. Have students answer the following question: Are Peeps delicious or disgusting and why? Invite students to share their responses.
2. As a class, use the index cards to determine how many students like Peeps and how many students do not like Peeps.
3. Have students graph the class results. They may choose which type of graph to use to best represent the class data.
4. Invite students to write a five-paragraph essay persuading their audience that Peeps are delicious or disgusting. Essays must include reasons and examples.

Have your students visit theweekjunior.com/polls to vote. We'll publish the results next week.

What you need to know

- Peeps, the colorful, sugar-covered marshmallow confections in the shapes of birds and bunnies, were first introduced in 1953 by the candy manufacturer Just Born Inc.
- The company, located in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, makes 5.5 million Peeps every day. More than 2 billion Peeps are sold each year, with about 1.5 billion sold around Easter.
- For more than 20 years, Peeps have been the most popular non-chocolate Easter candy in the US.

NOTES

This week's big news

Congress passes relief bill

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Let's Discuss

1. What is the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021? Why was it passed? Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.
2. Identify 2–3 ways the American Rescue Plan will help the American people. Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.
3. Explain how political leaders and organizations reacted to the news of the American Rescue Plan.

Vocabulary

Congress
Food instability
Ventilation system

TWJ Kids Take Action

In school or remote

Invite students to design a flyer or poster that shares key information about the American Rescue Plan. The flyer or poster may include a logo, tagline description, website information, and/or social media handles.

Crimes against Asian Americans condemned

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Let's Discuss

1. What is a hate crime? Why is there an increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans? Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.
2. What examples from the text prove that Asian Americans are being discriminated against?
3. Explain the steps being taken to prevent hate crimes against Asian Americans.

Vocabulary

Discrimination
Hate crimes
Gender identity

TWJ Kids Take Action

In school or remote

After reading the article "Crimes Against Asian Americans Condemned," students may experience many different emotions. Have students complete a journal entry and consider the following questions: How did this article make you feel? Why did it make you feel this way? What can you do to help prevent hate crimes against Asian Americans or any other group?

Last Week's Poll:

Last week we asked if students deserve mental health days off from school when they feel stressed. A big majority (87%) of you said a break should be allowed while some of you (13%) said no.

Virtual Activity

Share your screen and invite students to watch a [Peeps Factory Tour](#).

Encourage students to discuss what they learned. Have students answer the following questions:

- A) If you were going to create a new Peep, what would it be and why?
- B) How would you express your Peep-sonality?

Brain Booster

The article "The Special Day We Turn a Year Older" explains birthday traditions and tells about sweets and treats for celebrating birthdays around the world.

1. Write 2–3 paragraphs about how you and your family celebrate birthdays or special birthday traditions.
2. Write a recipe for a birthday treat. The recipe must include all ingredients and step-by-step instructions.

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