

The Week Junior Teacher's Guide

In this issue we will learn about the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act and how it will support the Asian American community. Students will form an opinion about whether or not volunteering should be required. Finally, we will discover how the transcontinental railroad changed America forever.



This week at a glance

Page	News	Discussion points	Article type
4	Senate passes bill protecting Asian Americans	What is a hate crime? Explain the goals of the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act.	National News
5	Mental Health Awareness Month begins	Why is it important to learn about mental health, especially during the pandemic?	National News
12	The iron rails that built a nation	Write a one- to two-paragraph summary explaining how rail lines revolutionized travel and brought the US together.	All About
14	Fearsome new dino discovered	What is the Llukalkan? Explain how scientists studied the Llukalkan and what they discovered.	Science & Technology
24	Map your neighborhood	What skills can you learn from making a map? Summarize the steps for drawing a map.	How To

THIS WEEK'S BIG DEBATE: SHOULD VOLUNTEERING BE REQUIRED?

YES—volunteering helps everyone | **NO**—service shouldn't be an obligation

ACTIVITY:

1. Challenge students to brainstorm different ways to volunteer in their community.
2. On an index card, have students answer the question: "Do you think volunteering should be required?" Invite students to share their responses.
3. Have students research and write a three- to five-paragraph essay arguing that volunteering should or should not be required. Student essays should include strong reasons and evidence to support their argument.

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

What you need to know

- Nearly half of all states and the District of Columbia require community service or provide high school credit for students who volunteer, according to the Center for American Progress.
- However, states without such requirements had slightly higher rates of young people volunteering.
- Teens overwhelmingly volunteer through organizations. School-sponsored service activities are the number-one way they give back.

NOTES

This week's big news

Senate passes bill protecting Asian Americans

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Let's Discuss

1. Identify three ways the bill will help Asian Americans.
2. What evidence from the article proves that this bill is highly important?
3. How do Democrats and Republicans feel about this bill?

Vocabulary

Bill
Senator
Pandemic

TWJ Kids Take Action

In school or remote

A subheading tells readers what the paragraph is all about. Write four new subheadings for this article.

Mental Health Awareness Month

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Let's Discuss

1. What is mental health, and what is the purpose of Mental Health Awareness Month?
2. What advice did Dr. Betty Lai give to help support people who might be feeling upset, sad, or worried?
3. Share some healthy ways to deal with stress.

Vocabulary

Anxiety
Depression
Psychologist

TWJ Kids Take Action

In school or remote

Draw or create the green mental health ribbon, and write a message of support for Mental Health Awareness Month.

Last Week's Poll

Last week, we asked you if schools should switch to a four-day week. Most of you (67%) said yes, but many of you (33%) said no to fewer school days.

Virtual Activity

Share your screen and invite students to learn about [Mental Health](#). Afterward, have students answer the following question: What are some self-care strategies you can use to deal with everyday feelings?

Brain Booster

Read the article "Map Your Neighborhood" on page 24. Draw a map of your own neighborhood. Refer to the four steps in the article if you need assistance. Write one to two paragraphs explaining your map. Use the following prompts:

- A) Explain your map.
- B) How does the map key help readers?
- C) What did you learn from this assignment?

NOTES
