

# The Week Junior Teacher's Guide

**In this issue we will** learn about how the United States and many other countries are supporting India through its second coronavirus surge. Students will form an opinion about whether or not video games should be considered a sport. Finally, readers will discover how a team of 12 people gathered and removed trash at the world's largest marine conservation area.



## This week at a glance

Page	News	Discussion points	Article type
2	US sends medical aid to India	Why is there an urgent need for medical supplies and emergency aid in India?	Big News
4	Tons of plastic hauled from ocean near Hawaii	What is the name of the world's largest marine conservation area and where is it located?	National News
10	Spotting cows from outer space	What did researchers use to study the animals? Explain what the researchers learned about elk and cows.	Animals & the Environment
12	Footwear you can really play in	Write a one- or two-paragraph summary about the history and evolution of sneakers.	All About
19	Surprise winner at Kentucky Derby	What kind of horse can enter the Kentucky Derby? Who won this year's race?	Sports

### THIS WEEK'S BIG DEBATE: SHOULD VIDEO GAMES BE CONSIDERED A SPORT?

**YES**—gaming takes skill like any sport | **NO**—physical sports are much harder

#### ACTIVITY:

- Split students into Teams A and B. Team A will be sports reporters. Team B will be coaches and players of an esports league.
- Have Team A interview Team B about whether video games are a sport. Team B should have reasons, examples, peer quotes, and interesting facts to support their argument.
- Switch sides. Team A will be physical sports players and coaches. Team B will be reporters interviewing them about the same topic. Team A should also have evidence to support their argument.
- Ask students if they have changed their minds about the topic. Ask them to explain why.

Have your students visit [theweekjunior.com/polls](http://theweekjunior.com/polls) to vote. We'll publish the results next week.

### What you need to know

- In 2020, video gaming made nearly \$180 billion. That's more than North American professional sports and the worldwide movie industry made combined.
- Last month, the International Olympic Committee launched the first-ever Olympic Virtual Series. It will include five sports—baseball, cycling, auto racing, rowing, and sailing—and will run from May 13 to June 23.
- It's estimated that 557 million people worldwide will play esports this year.

#### NOTES

## This week's big news

### US sends medical aid to India

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#### Let's Discuss

1. What evidence from the article proves that hospitals in India are struggling?
2. Explain how the United States is helping India.
3. Identify two ways India will use its own resources to control the virus.

#### Vocabulary

Variants  
Pentagon  
Prime minister

#### TWJ Kids Take Action

*In school or remote*

Imagine you are a journalist interviewing India's defense minister Rajnath Singh. Write five interview questions you'd like to ask him.

### Tons of plastic hauled from ocean near Hawaii

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#### Let's Discuss

1. Explain how the crew gathered and removed the garbage.  
What items did they collect?
2. What is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?
3. Explain why the garbage patch is harmful to the environment.

#### Vocabulary

Marine conservation  
Algae  
Plankton

#### TWJ Kids Take Action

*In school or remote*

Get creative! Design a poster that explains the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and why it is harmful to the environment. Each poster must include at least one vocabulary word and a caption.

### Last Week's Poll

Last week we asked whether kids should be required to volunteer. It was a very close vote, with 51% of you coming down on the side of mandatory volunteering, and 49% of you saying no.

### Virtual Activity

Share your screen and invite students to participate in the brain break [Repeat the Beat](#) with Young Dylan.

### Brain Booster

Have students read the article "US Sends Medical Aid to India" on page 2 of this issue. Then have them write a three- to five-paragraph essay about the country of India. Encourage them to do research on the following:

- A) Famous landmarks
- B) History of the flag
- C) Traditional foods
- D) Celebrations
- E) Sports
- F) Native animals

#### NOTES

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