

The Week Junior Teacher's Guide

In this issue we will learn about the big announcement from US Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona regarding the future of school. Students will discuss and form an opinion about whether or not kids should have to learn another language. Finally, discover fun facts about America's favorite Mexican dish.



This week at a glance

Page	News	Discussion points	Article type
2	US official calls for schools to reopen	Who is Miguel Cardona? Why is his announcement important?	Big News
4	House votes in favor of DC statehood	Explain what would happen to Capitol Hill and the White House under the new legislation.	National News
9	Singing with heart	Who is Olivia Rodrigo? Discuss her musical journey, which began when she was just 4 years old.	People
12	America's favorite Mexican dish	Write a one- or two-paragraph summary explaining the origins of tacos, which Americans have come to love.	All About
15	Ancient arena uncovered in Turkey	What did researchers find in Mastaura and how did they discover it?	Science & Technology

THIS WEEK'S BIG DEBATE: SHOULD KIDS HAVE TO LEARN ANOTHER LANGUAGE?

YES—everyone should know at least two | **NO**—knowing one language is enough

ACTIVITY:

1. Invite students to watch the [TED Talk](#) on the importance of learning a second language.
2. Read or write the following statement from the article: "Some say foreign language classes should be required throughout US schools." Have students write their opinion of this statement on a sticky note and share their responses.
3. Invite students to write a three- to five-paragraph magazine article that argues whether or not kids should learn another language. Student articles should include strong reasons and examples. Encourage students to conduct further research.
4. The magazine article should include a title, picture, and caption.
5. Divide students into small groups and encourage them to present their articles.

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

What you need to know

- A median of 92% of European students learn a second language in school. Students typically begin studying their first foreign language as a required school subject between the ages of 6 and 9.
- About 20% of K–12 students in the US are enrolled in foreign language classes, according to a 2017 report from the nonprofit American Councils for International Education.
- In the US, 22% of children speak a language other than English at home.

NOTES

This week's big news

US official calls for schools to reopen

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Let's Discuss

1. Explain how funds from the Covid-19 relief bill will help schools.
2. How many school districts are in the United States, and who operates them?
3. Explain Secretary Cardona's statement: "But... there is no substitute for in-person learning."

Vocabulary

Federal government
Pandemic
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

TWJ Kids Take Action

In school or remote

Secretary Cardona announced that students can expect to return to in-person learning in the fall. Imagine you are interviewing your principal. Write five questions you would ask them about returning to school safely.

House votes in favor of DC statehood

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Let's Discuss

1. What is the new name being proposed for Washington, DC?
2. How many people reside in Washington, DC, and who controls the territory?
3. How do Democrats and Republicans feel about the legislation?

Vocabulary

House of Representatives
Capitol Hill
The White House

TWJ Kids Take Action

In school or remote

Design a state flag for Washington, Douglass Commonwealth. Write one paragraph explaining the new design.

Last Week's Poll

Last week we asked you if playing video games should be considered a sport. More of you (58%) said no, but many of you (42%) said yes, it should.

Virtual Activity

Share your screen and invite students on a virtual field trip to the [Amazon Rainforest](#). Encourage students to share new facts that they learned.

Brain Booster

Have students read the article "Saving an At-Risk Rainforest in Belize" on page 10 of this issue. Then ask them to choose an animal or plant from the rainforest and write a three- to five-paragraph essay about it. Have them use the following to guide their research:

- A) Physical description
- B) Habitat
- C) Diet
- D) Interesting traits or features

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