

THE WEEK Junior EDUCATION

The Week Junior Educator Guide

Welcome to *The Week Junior*, the award-winning weekly news magazine designed to help young people make sense of the world around them.

Each week, we explain real-world events in a clear, concise and, most importantly, balanced way that empowers young readers to form and share their own opinions about news events and newsmakers. In addition to the week's news and current events, we showcase a variety of incredible discoveries, entertainment, lifestyle news, and human-interest stories that will inspire students to learn about, and act on the issues that matter most to them.

What's Unique about *The Week Junior*?

Designed for students: We know today's students are naturally curious and interested in what's happening around them, so we don't gloss over complex, thought-provoking topics. We present accurate and age-appropriate content that helps young people understand, and form their own opinions about, the week's news.

Balanced Coverage: Our job is not to showcase an opinion or one-sided narrative about the week's news. We intentionally offer students many sides of controversial issues. We celebrate diversity and inclusivity and ensure that our editorial coverage is free from bias.

Easy to navigate: Educators have told us how important consistency and ease-of-use are for them and their students. Each issue has the same consistent features with an accessible, easy-to-navigate layout.

Anatomy of *The Week Junior*

Big News: *Three important news stories that have made a global impact*

Home News: *Five stories of national note: at least one significant national story and three regional stories*

Word of the Week: *Challenging vocabulary word that relates to the week's news*

Around the World: *10 short stories about global events, anchored by a world map*

The Big Debate: *Examination of both sides of a controversial question or issue that includes key facts and a summary of different perspectives to encourage students to form their own opinions*

People: *Three newsmakers who have an unusual occupation or story, or who have achieved something incredible*

Animals and the Environment: *Stories about nature where students can learn and be inspired to make a difference*

All About: *The one extended feature in each week's issue where we can explore a topic in a little more depth. Covers everything from Watergate to the Wizard of Oz!*

Science + Technology: *Consistently ranks among our most popular features. Encompasses topics like space, archaeology, technological innovations, medical research, and discoveries – all of which must be unpacked methodically and accessibly.*

Photos of the Week: *The best images of people, events, places and moments that are shaping history*

Do Something: *Encourages students to learn about a hobby, activity or sport and gives them practical tips about how to begin, where to try, and other top tips*

Quiz of the Week: *15 questions about the week's news that students can use to see what they remember*

Evergreen Activities To Engage Students Around *The Week Junior*

What's Your Perspective?

Introduce students to the power of examining multiple perspectives on an issue using an example from their own lives (school uniforms, best age to start on social media, the value of homework). Reinforce the importance of listening to one another and respecting different opinions. Review the question in The Big Debate section of *The Week Junior*, and challenge student groups to form a human barometer to show their opinion on the topic before they conduct research. *Note: To form the human barometer, place a sign with "Yes" on one side of the room and a sign with "No" at the other end. Read the question and invite students to stand at the point at or between the signs that reflects their opinions.*

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Six Words or Fewer

Invite students to read the story and highlight information and evidence that supports one perspective in one color and information and evidence that supports a different perspective in another color. Challenge them to draw a circle around the strongest pieces of evidence for each side and a box around the evidence with which they most agree.

Finally, challenge students to repeat the human barometer activity and to discuss if/how examining multiple perspectives has impacted their opinion.

Challenge students to use a U.S. map to find the locations of the stories profiled in Home News. Direct student groups to select one of the articles and complete the following:

- Summarize the story in six words or fewer.
- Reach consensus on why this story is featured this week.
- List their questions about the people, events, or issues featured. If time allows, encourage students to research the answers.
- Identify how the story is relevant to their lives.
- Predict (and explain) the status of the story one year from now.

Take On the World

Before class, write the names of the cities/countries featured in this week's Around the World on one set of cards and the related headlines on another set.

Challenge the class to guess which locations match which headlines in this week's news and to identify how many (and which) continents are featured this week. Invite students to review answers by going to the pages in the issue.

Invite students to select one of the stories and to complete a three-box graphic organizer that summarizes the story in the center box, lists one possible cause of the events covered in the left box and one possible effect in the right box. Invite students to share their stories, causes, and effects and to answer the following questions:

- What additional questions do you have about the story you selected?
- What does the issue or event in the article reveal about the culture, government, geography, or people in this place?
- Which place featured would you most want to visit, and why?

Picture Perfect

Ask students to select a photo from this week's Photos of the Week that they'd like to learn more about. Challenge them to answer the questions below:

- Describe what you see in the photograph.
- Why do you think this photograph was taken?
- What can you learn from examining this image?
- What do you think is happening in the photograph?
- What do you think happens one minute or even one year after this photograph was taken?
- Write and justify a caption.

Meet a Newsmaker

Direct students to select a person featured in an issue of *The Week Junior* that they'd like to meet. Ask them to imagine that they are given the chance to ask him/her five questions. What would those questions be, and why? Challenge them to conduct research that helps them answer to the questions themselves. Further challenge students to dress up like their interviewee and share the information about him/her in a video, song, podcast, or imaginary talking wax museum.

Comic Relief

Challenge students to create an eight-panel comic strip that illustrates and summarizes the most important points about the issue featured in the *All About* section. Their comic strip must have a cover page and illustrations and captions on each panel. Challenge them to include relevant, creative narration and dialogue and to present their comic strip to a partner, explaining their choices.

For Families

News in 30

Can you tell a story in just 30 words or 30 seconds? Talk as a family about why it's important to stay informed about what's happening in your community, your state, the nation, and all around the world! What would happen if you didn't read or watch any news updates, or learn about new inventions and technologies, or find out the scores of your favorite sporting events?

Learning about the latest news helps us know about the most important people, places, issues, events, discoveries, and breakthroughs. Challenge each member of the family to choose one news story in this week's issue to "report" on to the rest of the family. Each family must read his or her article, highlight the most important information, and explain the story in just 30 words or no more than 30 seconds! Can you do it?

Dinner Table Debate

Introduce your child to the power of examining multiple perspectives on an issue using an example in their lives (school uniforms, best age to start on social media, the value of homework). Reinforce the importance of listening to one another and respecting different opinions and remind them that even people in the same families can have different opinions! Read *The Big Debate* together, and highlight information and evidence that supports one perspective in one color and information and evidence that supports a different perspective in another color. Draw a circle around the strongest pieces of evidence for each side and a box around the evidence with which you most agree or disagree. Then, discuss the topic together. Share what you learned and encourage each family member to share his or her opinion on the debate including at least one reason that supports that opinion.

What's the Review?

How do you decide which books, shows, movies, or songs you will watch, listen to, or read? Do you ever read reviews in magazines, newspapers, or online websites to help you decide? Reviews are opinion articles written to either recommend or not recommend that a reader watch, buy, or do something.

Choose one review from the *Arts & Entertainment* section of this week's issue. Read it carefully. Is it positive or negative? How do you know? What techniques were used? Colorful language? A strong opening? A comparison to something else? Challenge your child to write a review of his or her favorite show, book, movie, video game, app, or song. Use the reviews in this week's issue as a guide. Their review should really persuade someone else to want to watch or read. Encourage him or her to include a photograph or an illustration with the article. Then, encourage your child to share the review with friends or even a teacher!

Take a Picture!

Have you ever heard the saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words"? Pictures can often tell a story in a way that words cannot. With your child, look at the photos in this week's *Photos of the Week*. Why do you think they were taken? What questions do you have about them? What do you notice about where the subject is centered in the photograph? How do the photos capture this moment in time? What might someone who looks at the photos 100 years from now be able to say about our planet? Encourage your child to find an online tutorial or workshop on how to take a good picture. Then using a camera or cell phone, encourage your child to take five photos that best capture this moment in time. Set up photo galleries around your home that help your child tell "their story."

How To ...

The *How To* section is a great way to learn step-by-step directions for trying something new. Read this week's *How To* and encourage your child to give the new skill or hobby a try! Then challenge your child to identify something he or she would like to teach others. Using the *How To* section as a guide, challenge your child to list out step-by-step directions to teach someone else his or her hobby or skill. Be sure to include "What You Need," the step-by-step directions, and a photograph of the finished product. For extra fun, challenge all family members to create a *How To* for the whole family to try!