



# This week's big news



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Uvalde, Texas, was officially established in 1888 and is 54 miles east of the US border with Mexico.

A memorial in Uvalde, Texas

## If you feel worried



It's understandable that you might be feeling upset about the events in Texas. If you are, talk with a trusted adult, ask questions, and share your feelings. For more advice as well as a place to draw or write about your emotions, please turn to pages 18–19.

# Nation reacts to tragedy in Texas

People around the US and the world are expressing sorrow after violence occurred at a school in Uvalde, Texas.

### What happened?

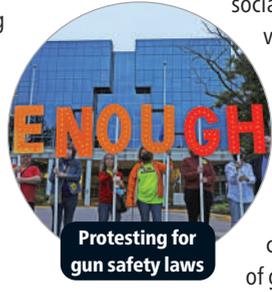
On May 24, an 18-year-old went to Robb Elementary School with guns and began shooting. Nineteen students and two teachers were killed, and 17 students were injured. The gunman died in a confrontation with police. Investigators said they had not determined a reason for the violence.

### How did people react?

There has been an outpouring of shock, grief, and sympathy for the victims and their families. National and world leaders have spoken out. In the days following the tragedy, criticism has grown over law enforcement officers' response during the shooting. Officials said that police officers stayed outside the school too long before stopping the shooter. People are focused on how to prevent violence like this from happening in the future, and many conversations among US government leaders and Americans are taking place to determine the best ways to accomplish that goal.

### How did people in the US come together to help?

Within days, fundraisers that were created to help victims and their families had collected more than \$5.5 million. On May 29, President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden visited Uvalde to support the community. They met with victims' families and survivors, attended church services, and viewed a memorial set up at the school. Several organizations from Texas and around the US have sent dozens of trained therapy dogs to Uvalde to provide comfort to the community. Athletes, coaches, and officials from professional sports teams in Texas and across the nation expressed support for Uvalde, donated funds, and used social media to share facts about gun violence.



### What are people demanding?

Biden and other US leaders from both major political parties (Democrats and Republicans) called on Congress (the branch of government that makes laws) to pass stronger gun safety laws that would make it harder for people to buy certain types of weapons. Senator Chris Murphy, a Democrat from Connecticut, is leading the effort for gun law reform. He is opposed by

most Senators from the Republican party, who say the Second Amendment of the US Constitution guarantees people the right to own guns and there should not be stronger restrictions on buying them. Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, said he is working to strike a compromise between the two sides and "agree on a basic framework" for such laws. Many gun owners said they agree that it is time for a compromise on gun safety legislation. Parents, law enforcement officers, and community officials are also calling for a closer look at additional ways to protect school buildings.

### What action is being taken?

When *The Week Junior* went to press, Senators Murphy and Cornyn were planning to meet to discuss how to move forward on gun safety laws. The US Justice Department said it will review the police response to the shooting and publish a report with its findings. The National Rifle Association (an organization that represents some gun owners) held its annual conference in Houston, Texas, three days after the shooting. Thousands of protesters marched outside that meeting to demand stricter gun laws. An organization called March for Our Lives announced that demonstrations will take place in hundreds of cities and towns across the country on June 11.