

WHAT IN THE WORLD?



LEVELS 1 & 2 (GRADES 5 AND UP)

Insurrection in the U.S.

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BREAKING NEWS
FEBRUARY 2021



LesPlan

A monthly current events resource for Canadian classrooms

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WHAT IN THE WORLD?

WHAT IN THE WORLD?

Breaking News 2020/2021: Issue 5

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Please let us know if you or a colleague would like to receive a complimentary sample of any of our publications.

HAY'SXW'QA!

LesPlan is grateful to the Lkwungen Peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose unceded land we now live, and do our work.

We welcome your comments and appreciate your suggestions. Please contact us at any time.

MISSION STATEMENT

LesPlan Educational Services Ltd. aims to help teachers develop students' engagement in, understanding of, and ability to critically assess current issues and events by providing quality, up-to-date, affordable, ready-to-use resources appropriate for use across the curriculum.



I have had many parents comment to me about how great they think *What in the World?* is, and they look forward to each month's issue coming home... This is a great resource for a small country school to explore the global issues that affect us all.

K. Camelon, Grade 7/8 teacher Admaston, ON



INTERNATIONAL

INSURRECTION IN THE UNITED STATES

BEFORE READING

1. Have students view the summary of the insurrection in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021 at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHmTzFnymOM>
2. After viewing, distribute 3 sticky notes to each student and have students write the following, each on a different note:
 - 1 word that sums up what they saw;
 - 1 emotion that they are feeling about what they saw;
 - 1 question that they have about what they saw.
3. Ask students to join with a partner to compare ideas. Then have each pair join with another to compare ideas.
4. Next, share as a class the words, emotions, and questions generated from the video.
5. Finally, invite students to set a purpose for reading the article, referring to the resource page **Setting A Purpose Before Reading** (p. 50) as needed.



INTERNATIONAL

INSURRECTION IN THE UNITED STATES



It was an event usually seen in undemocratic countries. For several hours, swarms of rioters smashed the windows of the legislature. They rampaged through government corridors. They vandalized offices. And they forced panicked lawmakers, fearing for their lives, to take shelter.

The mob also called for the death of high-ranking politicians. Some even placed pipe bombs in key locations to help them carry out these threats. Police tried to hold back the rioters, but the officers were greatly outnumbered.

This scene didn't unfold in an authoritarian nation, however. It took place in the United States, a country that is considered to be a **bedrock** of democracy. The site

of this chaos? Washington, D.C., the nation's capital.

A POWDER-KEG RALLY

The **insurrection** took place on January 6, following a mass rally held by U.S. President Donald Trump.

On that date, all members of the **U.S. Congress** had gathered to certify the results of the 2020 presidential election. This is a symbolic ceremony that happens after every four years when the next president is chosen. It celebrates the peaceful transfer of power from one president to another. Vice President Mike Pence was **presiding** over the event as the day unfolded.

Mr. Trump's rally was a last-ditch attempt to stop this process. The reason? Mr. Trump, a Republican, never accepted the

outcome of the November 2020 election. For more than two months, he falsely claimed that the election results were rigged. He said that he had won, and Joe Biden, a Democrat, had lost.

Mr. Trump offered no evidence for these **assertions**. In fact, judges in more than 50 court cases ruled that the election was fair. Yet he still insisted that the election was stolen from him.

'WILL BE WILD!'

Many of his followers became convinced this was true. They were egged on by extreme **right-wing** commentators, Republican politicians afraid to **alienate** Mr. Trump, and Internet conspiracy theories. When Mr. Trump urged them to come to Washington to protest, thousands of people from across

DEFINITIONS

ALIENATE: to cause someone to stop being friendly or helpful

ASSERTION: the act of forcefully expressing your opinions

BEDROCK: a strong idea, principle, or fact that supports something

INSURRECTION: a usually violent attempt to take control of a government

PRESIDE: to be in charge of something, such as a meeting

RIGHT WING: the part of a political group that supports conservative or traditional ideas and policies

U.S. CONGRESS: the legislature of the federal government of the United States that consists of 435 members of the House of Representatives and 100 members of the Senate



the country made the trip. 'Be there. Will be wild!,' Mr. Trump tweeted.

At the rally, President Trump appeared to encourage the crowd to take action against the government.

"We're going to have to fight much harder..." he told them. "We're going to walk down [to Congress] and I'll be there with you...Because you'll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength."

He also said he was angry at Mike Pence. President Trump had urged the vice president not to certify the election during the January 6 ceremony. But Mr. Pence refused this demand.

VP IN THE CROSSHAIRS

So after the rally, thousands of furious Trump supporters marched to the Capitol building where Congress was meeting. They easily broke through barriers. Hundreds stormed into the legislature. Some shouted "Where's Mike Pence" while looking for politicians to confront.

For four hours, they ransacked files, displayed hate-filled messages, and took selfies. Lawmakers and staff sheltered

A SECOND IMPEACHMENT FOR MR. TRUMP

On January 12, President Donald Trump was impeached for the second time – a unique event in U.S. history.

What exactly is an impeachment? It's the situation that occurs when lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives vote in favour of putting a president on trial for an alleged misconduct. All it takes for an impeachment is a simple majority of members.

In this case, every Democrat and 10 Republicans voted to impeach Mr. Trump for '**incitement** of insurrection'. The vote was 232 to 197.

The U.S. Senate conducts impeachment trials. The Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court usually presides. Witnesses are called on both sides and senators serve as the jury. Two-thirds of the senators must vote against the president. A guilty verdict removes a president from office. The Senate **acquitted** Mr. Trump the first time of illegally withholding aid from Ukraine. If he loses this time, it will be too late to remove him from office. But he can be banned from running for president again.

in place or were whisked away through secret underground tunnels to safety. Police shot and killed a woman in a standoff. In the end, five people died, including a police officer.

Hours into the chaos, Mr. Trump tweeted a message to the rioters. But he didn't **denounce** the violence.

"This was a fraudulent election, but we...have to have peace. Go home, we love you, you're very special," he told the rioters.

DEMOCRACY PREVAILS

Around 6 p.m., when reinforcements arrived, police were finally able to gain control

and secure the building.

Lawmakers were badly shaken, but this assault on democracy only made them more **resolute** about performing their duty. They returned to Congress at 8 p.m. Late that night, a determined Mr. Pence certified Mr. Biden's victory.

"Violence never wins; freedom wins; and this is still the people's house," he declared.

Now, police have launched a nationwide search to find the Capitol attackers. More than 170 suspects could face prosecution. Meanwhile, expect a deep probe into why police failed to protect the Capitol building. ★

DEFINITIONS

ACQUIT: to pronounce not guilty of criminal charges

DENOUNCE: to publicly say that someone or something is bad

INCITEMENT: the act of encouraging somebody to do something violent, illegal, or unpleasant

RESOLUTE: strong and determined



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the U.S. Congress? What are the two parts of this institution?

2. What was planned at the U.S. Congress on January 6? What is the vice president's role in this event?

3. Who hosted a large public rally in Washington on the morning of January 6?

4. What message did the president convey at the rally? How did he incite the protesters to take action?

5. Describe what Trump supporters did when they reached the Capitol where Congress was meeting.

6. How did the police respond to this assault?

7. What happened after the demonstrators were removed from the Capitol building?

8. What did the House of Representatives do on January 12? What was the charge against Mr. Trump?

9. What is the second step in the impeachment process? Explain.

**QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT**

1. While the January 6 insurrection was taking place, President Trump released a video statement to his supporters from the White House: *“This was a fraudulent election, but we can’t play into the hands of these people. We have to have peace. So go home, we love you, you’re very special.”*

In any message, there are explicit ideas that are obvious and clear, and implicit ideas that are suggested or implied. In your opinion, what are the explicit and implicit ideas in President Trump's message to his supporters? Give reasons to support your ideas.

2. Late on the evening of January 6, once the Capitol building was secured, Vice President Mike Pence presided over the certification of the election results. He stated, *“Violence never wins; freedom wins; and this is still the people’s house.”*

As you see it, what message was the vice president sending in this statement? Explain.

**QUESTIONS FOR ONLINE EXPLORATION**

Note: The links below are listed at www.lesplan.com/en/links for easy access.

1. President Trump has delivered many messages to the American people during and since the insurrection at the Capitol building, in different settings and circumstances. Visit the links below to watch the progression of these messages over time:

January 6, rally: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6quOC6McLZU>

January 6, during the insurrection: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMeAE4GHmIE>

January 7, formal announcement: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFADopBnb_U

January 8, formal announcement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfNTxW1Jhco>

January 12, on the White House lawn <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLjfWxy2qjo>

January 13, formal announcement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDNiNdsPHNA>

As you see it, has the president been consistent with his messaging? Give reasons to support your ideas.

2. With just over a week left in Donald Trump's presidency, the U.S. Congress voted to impeach the president. Visit either of the sites below to learn about the impeachment vote and what it might mean for Donald Trump as he leaves office:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crq196edW6M>

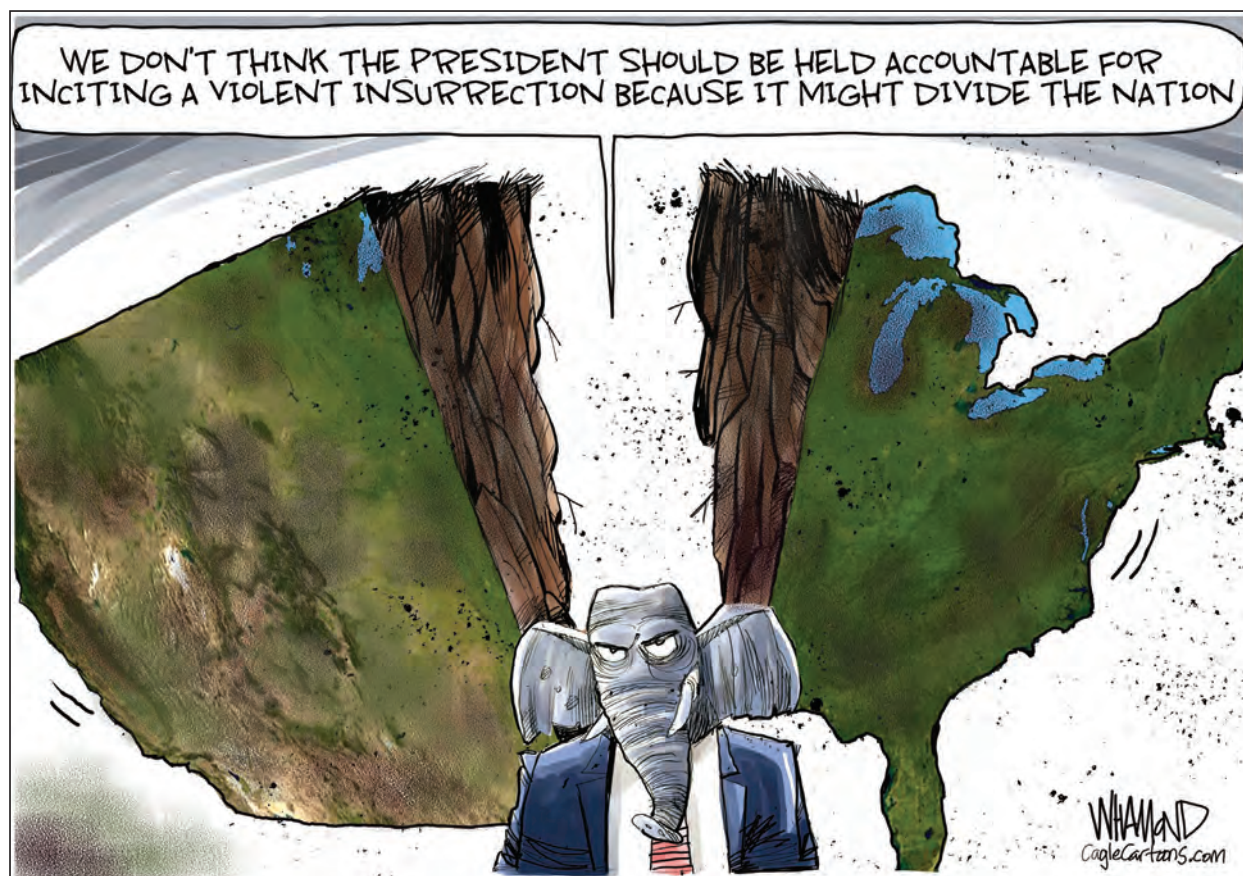
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptsU235pU1k>

Do you agree with the U.S. Congress' decision to impeach President Trump? Explain.



INTERNATIONAL

INSURRECTION IN THE UNITED STATES



YOUR TASK:

Examine the editorial cartoon, then answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper:

1. What do you already know about the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol building?
2. What landmass is represented in the cartoon?
3. What is unusual about how this landmass is presented?
4. Who or what do you suppose the talking elephant symbolizes? Why? (Hint: What are the symbols of the two main political parties in the United States?)
5. What is the talking elephant saying?
6. As you see it, what might the cartoonist be saying about January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol building? Explain.
7. For what reasons do you agree with the cartoonist's perspective? For what reasons do you disagree? ★



Complete this map assignment to better understand the article *Insurrection in the United States*.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Obtain the required resources and read all the instructions before starting.
2. Colour your map **after** all labelling is completed.
3. Print in pencil only first, then go over the printing in black ink.
4. Work carefully and neatly.

Resources Required: pencil, black pen, pencil crayons, ruler, eraser and an atlas.

Part A Locate and label the capital of the United States and underline this city name.

Part B Locate and label Georgia in CAPITAL letters and shade this state yellow.

Part C Locate and label the capital of Georgia and underline this city name.

Part D Locate and label the following U.S. states in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

Florida (orange)	Alabama (red)	South Carolina (pink)
North Carolina (purple)	Virginia (yellow)	West Virginia (green)
Kentucky (pink)	Tennessee (orange)	

Part E Locate and label the capitals of these U.S. states and underline each city name.

Part F Locate and label the following U.S. states in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

Louisiana (brown)	Mississippi (green)
Arkansas (yellow)	Missouri (red)
Illinois (green)	Indiana (yellow)
Ohio (purple)	Maryland (red)
Delaware (brown)	New Jersey (pink)

Part G Locate and label the Bahamas in CAPITAL letters and shade this country yellow.

Part H Locate and label the capital of the Bahamas and underline this city name.

Part I Locate and label the following and shade all salt water dark blue:

Gulf of Mexico	Atlantic Ocean
Straits of Florida	

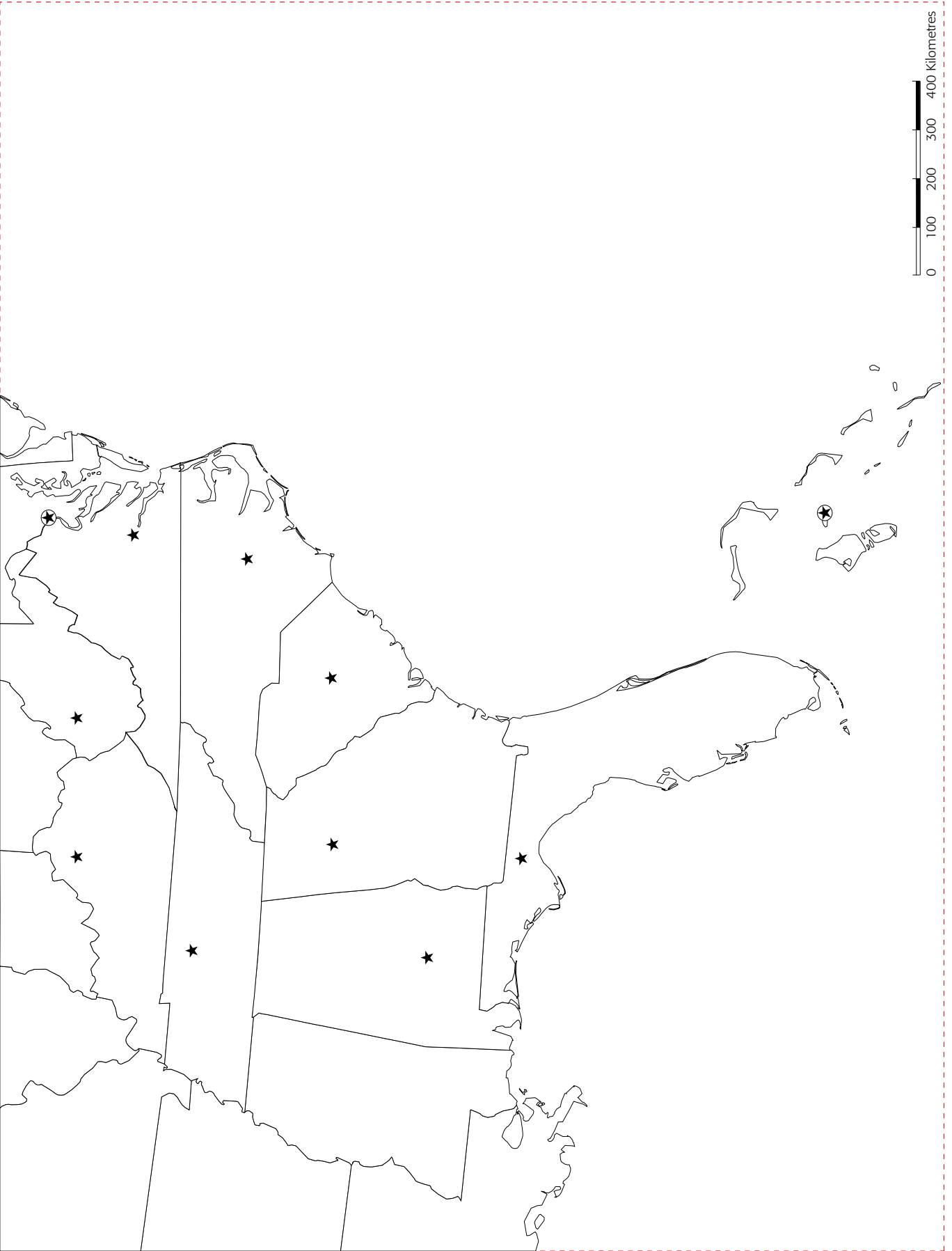
Part J Complete your map with a frame, title and compass. ★



United States



Georgia



**PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**

A. Write the letter that corresponds to the best answer on the line beside each question:

- _____ 1. **On January 6, all members of the U.S. Congress met to:**
a) impeach the vice president b) certify the November election results
c) re-elect President Trump d) swear in Joe Biden as president
- _____ 2. **Who was in charge of this process?**
a) Nancy Pelosi b) Mike Pence
c) Donald Trump d) Barack Obama
- _____ 3. **The impeachment charge brought against President Trump was: ‘_____ of insurrection’**
a) counseling b) conspiracy
c) incitement d) involvement

B. Mark the statements T (True) or F (False). If a statement is True, write one important fact to support it on the line below. If a statement is False, write the words that make it true on the line below.

- _____ 4. **True or False?** The vice president ignored Mr. Trump’s request to declare the election invalid.

- _____ 5. **True or False?** At a rally on January 6, Mr. Trump urged his supporters to protest peacefully.

- _____ 6. **True or False?** All Republicans voted to impeach Mr. Trump; all Democrats were opposed.

C. Fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.

7. The House of Representatives + the Senate = the U.S. _____ .
8. Mr. Trump _____ claimed the recent presidential election was rigged.
9. Very few police officers were protecting the U.S. _____ building on January 6.

D. Respond to the following question in paragraph form. (*Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.*)

10. As you see it, should Donald Trump be held accountable for the insurrection on the Capitol carried out by his supporters? Give reasons to support your response.

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Currents4Kids.com News4Youth.com

- ✓ **Online** interactive resource
- ✓ Weekly news stories
- ✓ Auto-graded quizzes
- ✓ Comment page for students to respond to the stories
- ✓ Links to relevant articles, resources, maps, photos and videos
- ✓ Extension activities



Product details: 38 issues. **One subscription** allows all teachers and students access from any Internet-connected device at any time. Available in English and in French.

Currents4Kids/Infos-Jeunes: Grades 3 and up.

News4Youth/Infos-Ados: Grades 7 and up.

What in the World?

- ✓ PDF/Word resource
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- ✓ Maps and illustrations



Product details: 8 issues. 38 pages. Available in English and in French, and in two reading levels, for grades 5 and up.

Building Bridges

- ✓ PDF/Word resource
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Students can complete assignments directly in the **Word** file. Teachers can email the file to students or post it on the Internet. The **Word** file also allows teachers to:

- easily modify and format content including changing **fonts** and **text sizes**
- create a **PDF** document and use **Adobe Reader's** 'Read Out Loud Mode'
- save paper and copying costs and help protect the environment
- promote and encourage students' computer skills

Password Security

There are **three** ways to access data from a **Word** file that is password protected:

- 1) Select the data you wish to **Copy** and then **Paste** it into any word processing program. Use **Select All** to copy the entire document.
- 2) Import the entire **Word** file into **LibreOffice** (or another similar program) and then save as a new file
- 3) To remove the password from a protected **Word** file, use **Save As** to make a new copy of the file. You can then change the **Security** settings and remove the password.

Google Docs and LibreOffice

- You can easily upload the **Word** file to **Google Docs** and share it with students or other teachers.
- You can translate **Google Docs** into another language (see *Tools>Translate document*) but you will need to edit the document to suit your requirements. **Google Docs** can translate into over 100 languages including Spanish, Mandarin, and German.
- **LibreOffice** is a free alternate to **Microsoft Office** and offers the same functionality. It's easy to install and use. See: www.libreoffice.org

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A. Eisler, Burnaby, BC

It is a relief to have a resource that fits with the curriculum and is teacher-friendly (ready to hand out). The added bonus of having the answers to the questions and discussion notes makes my life just a little bit easier.

B. Thibodeau, Saskatoon, SK

I have been using your product for seven years. There isn't a month that goes by that I don't get into challenging discussions with my students with the leads you provide and go in directions I could never imagine. Thank you for this terrific teaching aid!

D. Faerber, Pembroke, ON

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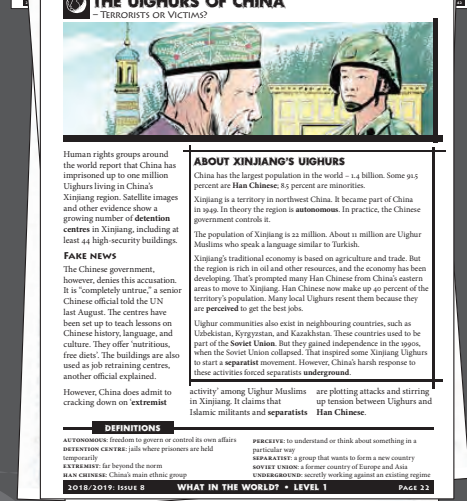
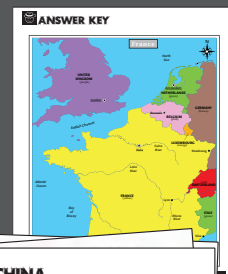
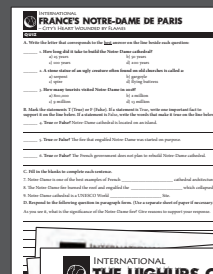
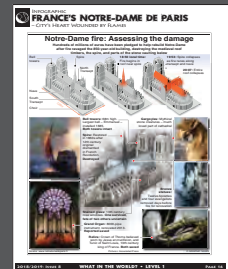
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