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Issue 87 • SUMMER 2024

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THE TRUTH BEHIND THE OLYMPIC GAMES



Original illustration by Emma Vitoria

ESTEBAN GUERRA • age 12

Sports, a big audience, and countries competing from all over the world: all coming soon in the 2024 Summer Olympics, located in **Paris**. The slogan for this year's Olympics is "Games Wide Open." France has big plans for the opening ceremony, including a 3.5-mile boat parade down **the Seine** with 325,000 people watching from the riverbanks. There will be 32 sports and 329 events, and 206 countries will compete. Russia and Belarus are banned from the Olympics this year because of Russia's war in the Ukraine. Terror attacks are a security concern for the Paris games.

Breaking, a form of breakdancing, originated in the Bronx and will be a new Olympic sport this year.

The surfing competition will take place in **Tahiti** because there are better surfing conditions in Tahiti than in France. This is also a way to show the world France's different territories. Some other changes this year are a men's artistic swimming event, a new weight class added to women's boxing, and a mixed marathon **race walk** that replaced the men's 50-kilometer walk.

THE HISTORY OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

The Olympic Games originated

in ancient Greece about 2,000 years ago. One of the traditions from the Olympic Games that is still observed today is the Olympic **truce**.

In 393 A.D., the Olympics were banned by Roman Emperor Theodosius I, who claimed that they encouraged paganism. Then, in the late 1800s, the Olympics were revived by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a French **aristocrat**. According to Olympics.com, some of the principles that guided him were "Educating young people through sport in a spirit of mutual understanding and friendship with a view to help build a better, more peaceful world" and "Bringing together athletes from all over the world for a major celebration of sport every four years."

The first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece, in April 1896. The first Olympics with women athletes took place in Paris in 1900. The 1924 Olympic Games in France also had some significant firsts: It was the first time that the Olympics were held during the winter and the first time there was an **Olympic Village**.

THE HUMAN COST OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

The Olympic Games can cause disasters to the communities around it. Due to the Olympic Games, people

have been **evicted** from their homes. Some are told to leave, and some can't afford rent after the Olympic Games, so they leave.

The main reason for this is that the host government wants the country to look incredible for the games. In the last 50 years, more than 2 million people have lost their homes due to **gentrification** and remodeling of communities and cities for the Olympics, such as building stadiums and the Olympic Village, according to the *Washington Post*.

In Los Angeles, the city prepared for the 1984 Olympic Games by **criminalizing** homelessness, which caused many arrests of African American men, according to the *Washington Post*.

In Atlanta, the city remodeled Techwood, a **public housing** complex, for the 1996 Olympics, causing 3,922 people to lose their homes. Before the Olympic Games, 4,000 people lived in Techwood. After, only 78 people were able to return. The *Washington Post* reported that a total of 6,000 people were evicted from their public housing in Atlanta for the games.

In the months leading up to the 2024 Olympics, Paris authorities have been evicting homeless people and migrants from the city and relocating them to other areas in France. Utopia

56, a nonprofit that helps unhoused people in France, called these evictions "social cleansing" in an interview with the Associated Press in April.

The French government's housing department and Paris 2024 organizers claim the relocations are to reduce urban burden and provide better support for people in the provinces, and have said they are unrelated to the upcoming games.

Paris: the capital city of France

The Seine: a river that runs through the city of Paris

Tahiti: an island in the South Pacific that is a territory of France

Race walk: a race where instead of running, you walk

Truce: when enemies agree to stop fighting

Aristocrat: a member of an elite group of people, usually with a lot of wealth and special privileges

Olympic Village: where Olympic athletes and officials live during the Olympic Games

Evicted: when someone is forced to leave somewhere by law

Gentrification: when wealthier people move into poorer areas, which often results in the area becoming more expensive to live in

Criminalize: to make illegal

Public housing: places to live that are more affordable, run by the government



NewsBrief

After Pressure Campaign, New York Public Libraries to Reopen on Sundays

NADYA SERRANO • age 10 and IndyKids Staff

New York Public Library.

Did you know that for the first half of 2024, many New York public libraries were operating only six days a week, and some only five days a week? As of November 2023, many branches of New York City's public libraries closed their doors on Sundays due to budget cuts. Libraries that were undergoing renovations and were supposed to reopen could not do so. Mayor Adams blamed his decision to cut libraries' budgets on the migrant crisis. Due to the right-to-shelter mandate, New York City has to cover the cost of safe shelter, food and water for migrants. As more and more migrants come to the United States, the cost to support them becomes more expensive. However, advocates claim that migrants are not the sole cause of these budget cuts. They argue that Mayor Adams also made deals with businesses in the past that he shouldn't have.

These budget cuts affected New Yorkers in many ways. For example, libraries provide a place for students to study and work. Fordham business school student Isabella Lucido told the *Fordham Observer* that the library closures were "devastating" because she mostly goes to the library on weekends. Libraries also provide spaces for citizenship classes and many after-school programs. If the library programs are no longer open, then the free after-school programs may have to shut down, as well, and many parents may need to pay for aftercare.

Library presidents claim that the library is a respectful place that allows people to read for free. Libraries are crucial to everyone, providing a safe place and a home for many New Yorkers. And thanks to people making their voices heard about this issue, the mayor reversed the budget cuts as part of the latest city budget proposal, and this summer, citizens of the Big Apple will be able to start taking advantage of their libraries seven days a week once again.

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nation & world

The Fight for True History in Florida

LUCA CANTAGALLO • age 14

Should students be protected from American history, or should the true and full history be taught?

Since January 2021, 44 states have introduced **bills**, launched almost exclusively by Republican lawmakers, that restrict the teaching of **critical race theory** (CRT). According to a CNN report, of these 44 states, 18 have passed the aforementioned bills. Some of these restrictions entail banning books, videos, speeches and more that include topics like Black history.

Gevin Reynolds, a former speechwriter for Vice President Kamala Harris, disagreed with these policies in an interview with CNN. "Black history is American history, right?" he said. "You can't teach or understand American history without teaching and understanding Black history." Reynolds believes that to be truly **patriotic**, you need to be able to acknowledge the high points and low points of U.S. history, stating, "I don't think you can be a patriot if you can't fully love and fully see your country for its beauties and its flaws."

In January of 2023, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis stripped down the Advanced Placement (AP) African American Studies course for his state. Kristin Fulwylie, the executive director of the Black History Project, which oversees Black history courses in several Florida cities, has stated that these courses are under attack. One of these rules

states that in Florida, school libraries and assigned reading lists must be vetted by official "media specialists" who have been trained by the state.

Some concerned proponents of a fuller U.S. history have made efforts to teach Black history outside of school. That includes Florida churches that have stepped up to teach Black history because of DeSantis's new legislation on what can be taught in public schools.

Pastor Sharon Riley of the Agape Perfecting Praise and Worship Center in Orlando started an African American history master class because there are holes in the history being taught in Florida public schools, according to NPR. LaVon Bracy with Faith in Florida has put together a toolkit that includes articles and videos that cover Black history, from the transatlantic slave trade through the civil rights movement to the killing of George Floyd.

Despite challenges inflicted by the Florida state government against the teaching of Black history, community members continue to make an effort to inform people about the full truth of American history.

Bill: a plan for a new law or a change to an existing law
Critical race theory: a course of study that views racism as a systemic issue (rather than an individual problem) that affects most, if not all, aspects of Western society
Patriotic: love and devotion to one's country

Photo: MChae Lee on Unsplash

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Human Rights Violations in Congo's Mining Industry

AIDA EL-HAJJAR • age 15

Our smartphones, computers and electronic vehicles seem necessary in our modern world. However, if we look behind the curtain at the mining of metals used to make our devices, the truth isn't as pretty. Egregious human rights violations are common in the industrial cobalt and copper mining operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), according to the Associated Press. The DRC has the world's largest reserves of cobalt, a grayish-white metal used to make many types of electronics and vehicles we use daily.

Cobalt mining in DRC is a toxic and dangerous practice for the workers involved, often due to the lack of professional equipment. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that 25,000 children are working in cobalt mines in the DRC, with some sent down in flip-flops to reach the metals.

In addition, communities surrounding the cobalt mines are also impacted and may be forcefully evicted due to the mining, according to Amnesty International. One affected area is the town of Kolwezi, where communities have been uprooted since the reopening of a large-scale copper and cobalt mine in 2015. Former resident Cécile Isaka described to Amnesty

International how the blasting of cobalt mines caused cracks in her house. With no other option, she had to accept inadequate compensation from the company and leave. Another resident recalls, "I had a large house, with electricity, water. ... Now, I have a small house that was all I could afford with the compensation ... we have to drink water from wells ... almost no electricity."

Recently, the government of the DRC accused Apple of using minerals gained from illegal **exploitation** in the country for their tech products. DRC lawyers said in a formal notice to Apple that Macs, iPhones and other Apple products are "tainted by the blood of the Congolese people."

As demand for devices continues to increase, the world must find a way to stop the human rights violations that are currently happening and figure out a sustainable option for our future. Agnès Callamard, secretary general of Amnesty International, stated, "The forced evictions taking place as companies seek to expand industrial-scale copper and cobalt mining projects are wrecking lives and must stop now."

Exploitation: taking advantage of someone or something for one's own benefit

Photo: Vanna Phon on Unsplash

Seeds of Survival

AISHA SIDDIQA HASSIM • age 15

Palestine, the land of the olive trees, is facing an agricultural crisis. Since Oct. 7, Israel has started a series of bombings, with white phosphorus and other ammunition, that have severely affected the climate and land in Palestine. Temperatures have risen, dry summers have become rainy, and the land has had its decadeslong growing patterns uprooted.

Unfortunately, weather and climate are not the only problems that Palestinians face. There have been cases of Israeli soldiers setting fire to and destroying land, cutting off water, and, more severely, killing the people who work on and protect the land. There is also the issue of the apartheid wall built by Israeli soldiers, which has cut families off from their olive groves and has taken up the space that they would have used for housing and farming, which has caused overcrowding in the spaces already there.

To combat the crisis in Palestine, Vivien Sansour, a Palestinian conservationist, writer and artist, partnered with the Hudson Valley Seed Company to work on preserving and growing heirloom plants, including wheat, gourds, cucumber, watermelon, eggplant, spinach and more. This project was made more urgent by the growing famine in Palestine and helps to renourish the land and provide food sources, not only in Palestine but also for places around the world facing droughts. The seeds, accustomed to growing in dry areas, offer a solution to the world's climate crisis. The aim of the project is not only to create these food sources but to also conserve Palestinian heritage through its flora.

The project is called the Palestine Heirloom Seed Library. Sansour notes that it is not a "bank" where the seeds are stored and preserved for a future "doomsday," but rather focuses on partnering with people who want to grow food and crops, because, in her opinion, doomsday is already here. She says that she has received emails from people in Gaza asking for information on what plants they could eat around them, which made her realize that the work they are doing is urgent and important.

Sansour talked to the *Guardian* about her passion for edible plants and how growing up in Beit Jala inspired it. "My life was such a beautiful bouquet of diversity all the time in terms of plant life," she said. Unfortunately, the climate crisis has narrowed that diversity down. According to Sansour, in about 10 years, the area went from completely soil and sun-based agriculture to needing Israeli agribusiness for seeds and chemical inputs.

The project works to tell the story of loss, grief and struggle of the Palestinian people and the individual struggles of herself and farmers in Palestine. It conveys the message of resilience and strength. It holds the hope for a better future in agriculture and food, not only for Palestinians, but for the world. "Every time we plant a seed or we plant a tree, we are planting it with the hope and intention to have a future," Sansour told the *Guardian*. You cannot have a future without knowing your past, and this project works to preserve history in order to create a better future.

Photo: Imso Gabriel on Unsplash

Science Briefs

These Young Activists Are Taking the EPA to Court

LEAH PALAZUELOS • age 13

Photo: Maxim Tolchinsky

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a government organization tasked with protecting human health and the environment, as stated on its website. Its mission includes ensuring that "Americans have clean air, land and water."

Eighteen young Californians are taking legal action against the EPA in a case titled *Genesis B. v. EPA* because of the harms they have suffered from climate change. Ranging in age from 8 to 17 years old, the group has experienced the effects of climate change in various ways, including extreme heat, asthma triggered by pollution, and relocation due to wildfires.

The lead **plaintiff**, Genesis Butler, has been affected by intense heat caused by climate change. Unable to afford air conditioning, she often has to wait until temperatures cool down to focus on her schoolwork. Maya Williams, another plaintiff involved in the lawsuit, suffers from **debilitating** asthma aggravated by hazardous air quality. According to Our Children's Trust, the law firm representing the plaintiffs, "Maya loves to play soccer but is unable to compete as competitively as she would like due to these impacts." Noah, another young plaintiff, has been forced to miss school for several days at a time and to evacuate his home several times as large wildfires ravaged nearby areas.

This case is part of a trend of young people fighting to secure a cleaner, healthier planet for the future of younger generations. Lawsuits such as *Held v. State of Montana*, which was a historic win regarding fossil fuels, represent this trend. Conversely, *Juliana v. United States* was recently dismissed for the second time, although Our Children's Trust remains optimistic about moving forward and its future progress.

The plaintiffs in *Genesis B. v. EPA* argue that the EPA has endangered their constitutional right to life by allowing dangerous fossil fuels into the environment. They also claim that the EPA puts the children at greater risk than adults. Our Children's Trust clarifies the goal of the lawsuit is "to stop the EPA from continuing to allow life-threatening levels of fossil fuel climate pollution and do what scientists say is necessary — phase out fossil fuel pollution no later than 2050." These young children, who have endured wildfires, pollution and orange skies, seek to hold the EPA responsible for its failure to complete its mission.

Plaintiff: someone who makes a legal complaint or files a lawsuit against a person, company or governmental organization
Debilitating: when something makes you feel extremely weak, tired and unable to function

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ALL ABOUT VOTING

UNDERSTANDING HOW OUR COUNTRY WORKS

NIKHIL SABNIS • age 10

Knowing how political systems within the United States and around the globe work is crucial to gaining a deeper understanding of our world. There are several different types of elections and branches of government in the United States that will be explained in detail in this article: primary, general and special elections, as well as the legislative, executive and judicial forms of administration.

ELECTIONS & VOTING

Elections are an important pillar of democracy since they are the way that the citizens get their perspectives told.

Primary elections are the “elections before the elections.” These are types of elections where a party’s candidates compete to see who represents their side in the general election. Primaries take place typically six to nine months before the presidential election in November. There are three different types of primaries: **open elections**, **closed elections** and **semi-closed elections**. Open elections are when a voter can vote for a candidate in either party. For example, a registered Republican voter could vote in the Democratic primaries in an open election. Closed elections are where voters can only vote with the party that they are registered with. **Absentee voters** are people who have been permitted to vote by mail and not in person.

Semi-closed elections are where independent voters may vote for any party they wish, Democratic or Republican, but a registered Republican or Democratic voter cannot vote for the opposite party. The candidate who wins a primary in that party will run in the general election.

General elections are where candidates nominated from each party through primaries or other ways compete to see who gains the most votes. They occur nationally, though they can also occur at the state or city level. Registered voters in the United States can vote in the presidential general election, which takes place every four years in November. The winner then serves in office for the next four years, until the next election takes place.

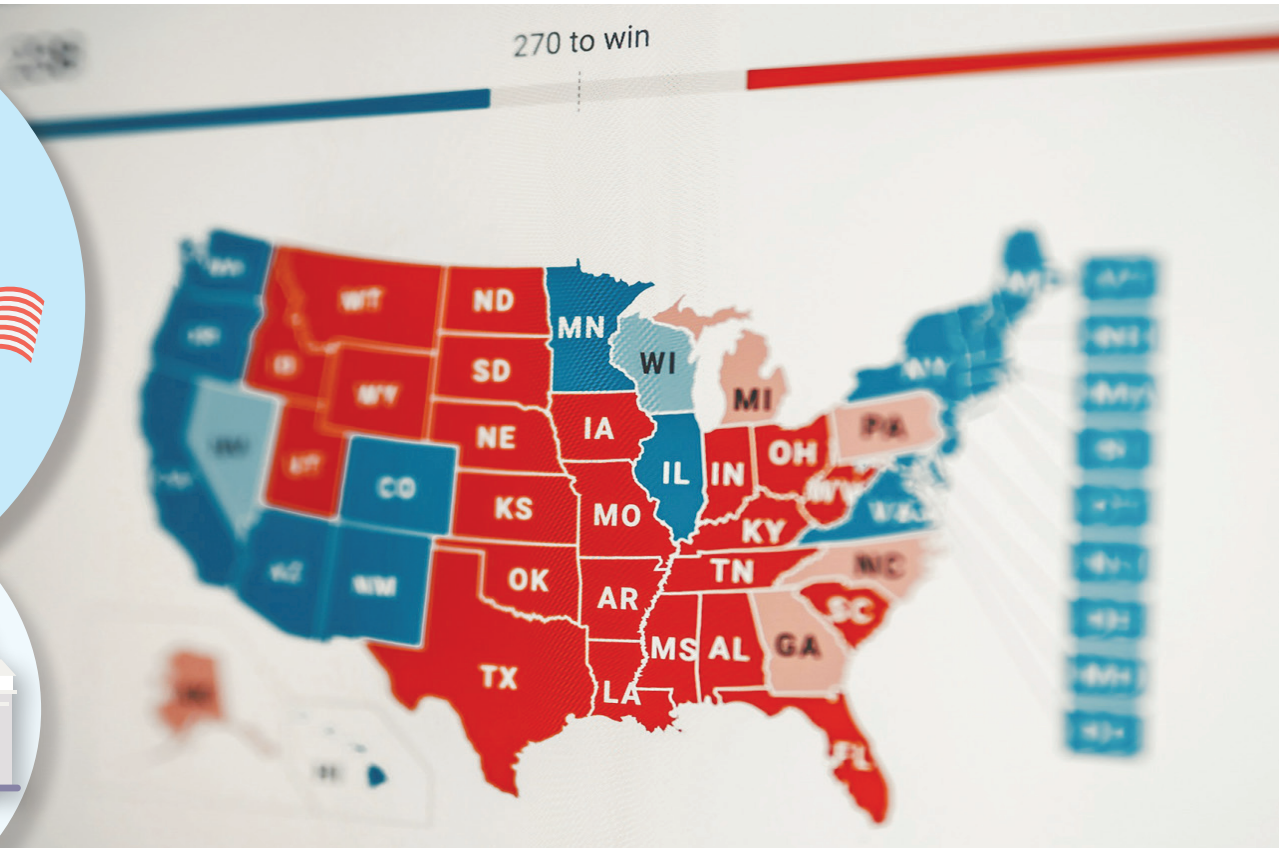
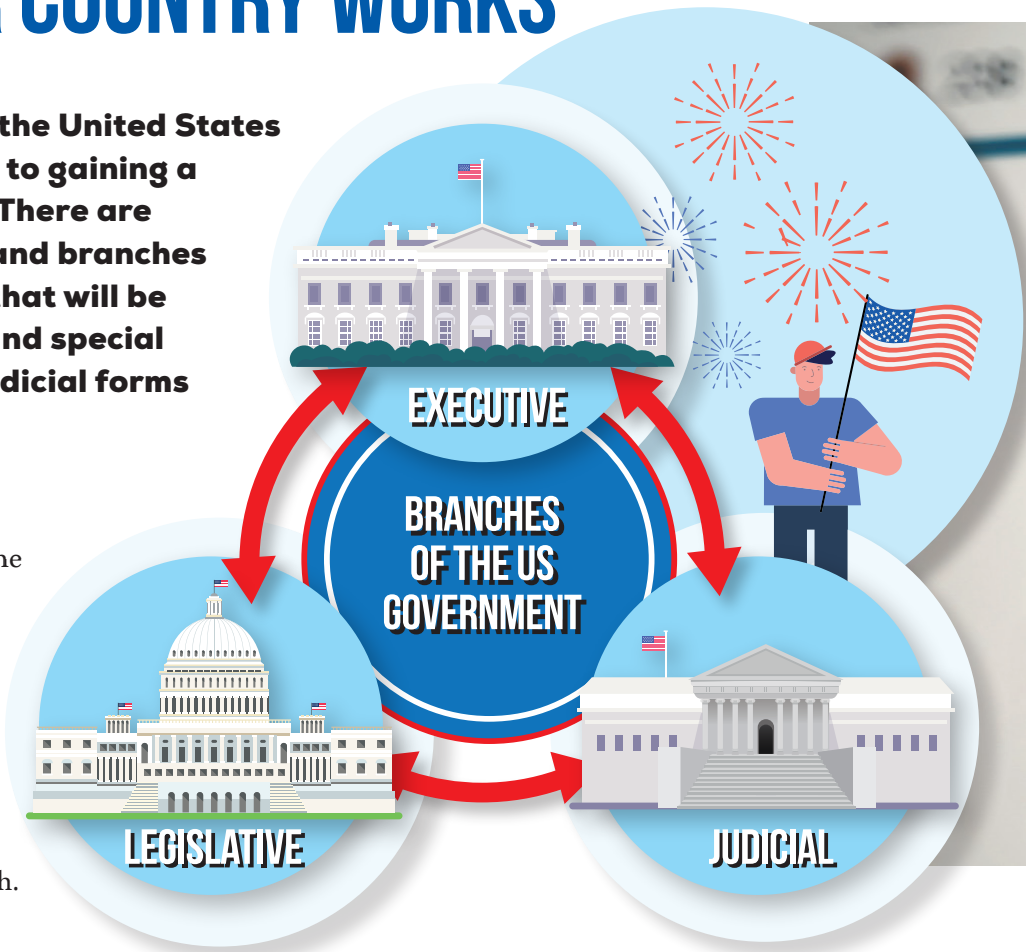
Registered voters, who are people at least 18 years old and citizens of the United States, can vote in the U.S. general election. Three types of candidates can be elected in general elections: **federal candidates**, such as U.S. senators and U.S. representatives to Congress; **state candidates**, such as governor, lieutenant governor, general assembly, attorney general, auditor general, state treasurer; and, lastly, **county and city officials**.

Special elections are held when an elected official steps down or passes away, or when people are asked to vote on a law. These elections can take place at any point. Those inside of the specific area that the election applies to, like in a city, state or even nationwide, may vote in this election.

BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

There are three different types—or branches, as they are known—of government in the United States: **legislative**, **executive** and **judicial**. The legislative branch consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate, known collectively as Congress. They declare wars, pass laws, impose taxes, and much more. The executive branch consists of the president, their advisers and various departments. The executive branch enforces the laws and controls the military. The judicial branch consists of the **Supreme Court** and lower courts, such as state and federal courts. The job of the judicial branch is to decide what laws mean in real-life situations and court cases, and to decide if laws are in violation of the Constitution.

These different kinds of elections and forms of government work together to try and create a just, equal and safe society in the United States.



Digital infographic of elections results by state.
Photo: Clay Banks on Unsplash

VOTING METHODS, VOTING RIGHTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCE IN ELECTIONS

LEAH PALAZUELOS • age 13

With the Trump vs. Biden election approaching in November, voting is on the forefront of everyone’s minds. Voting is the process of making a decision on not just what presidential candidate you prefer, but also local officials, laws (in the form of ballot measures), members of Congress and more. There are three primary ways to cast your vote. Early voting, which is available from Oct. 28 to Nov. 5 in New York City, is similar to regular voting, except where and when you vote. Voting by mail is when you send your ballot through the mail instead of voting in person and is available as long as you request an absentee ballot. Regular voting is the most traditional voting method and is held at in-person polls. This year’s presidential election is set to be held on Nov. 5. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2020, 69.4% of voters cast their ballot by mail or early voting, compared to a low 10.5% in 1996. This large increase can be attributed to the COVID pandemic.

In order to vote, you must be over 18 years of age, meet residency requirements, which vary by state, be a U.S. citizen, and meet registration guidelines, which also vary by state.

VOTING RIGHTS

When the country was first founded, only white men were allowed to vote. In 1870—almost 100 years after the country’s founding—the **15th Amendment** was ratified in order to allow men of all races to vote, and in 1920 white women got the right to vote, too. But some minorities didn’t, and still don’t get the same opportunity to vote despite having the constitutional right. It wasn’t until the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that finally most people in the United States, regardless of their race or gender, were able to vote.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 attempted to end local and state voter suppression, such as literacy tests which were aimed at disqualifying Black Americans in the South from voting, as well as harassment at the polls. Even after the Voting Rights Act was passed, harmful practices are still a large barrier

blocking true equality for all races, including photo ID laws, polling place closures, cuts to early voting/vote by mail, proof of citizenship requirements, and restraints on voter registration.

Redistricting, a common procedure involving the shifting of district lines every 10 years after the census, is not in itself a harmful practice. On the other hand, **gerrymandering** is when these lines are manipulated in order to impact elections or how certain communities are represented, which can give an unfair disadvantage to a certain political party.

The core protections of the Voting Rights Act have been struck down over time by the Supreme Court. In February 2024, the Senate reintroduced the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which, according to the Brennan Center, “would modernize and revitalize the Voting Rights Act of 1965, strengthening legal protections against discriminatory voting policies and practices.”

SOCIAL MEDIA AND ELECTIONS

Social media can have an effect on how people vote, both negatively and positively. According to the Pew Research Center, almost half of young Americans say their news mostly comes from social media, while older generations prefer legacy media, particularly television. While social media can offer a greater diversity in opinion and a more individualized feed than traditional outlets, misinformation, echo chambers and a preference for political content that incites extreme emotion are prevalent on social media outlets.

Misinformation, or false information, is particularly prevalent, as social media can allow false information to be shared with minimal fact-checking. According to GCF Global, an echo chamber is an “environment where a person only encounters information or opinions that reflect and reinforce their own” and “can create misinformation and distort a person’s perspective.” Echo chambers can prohibit people from seeing others’ points of view and can easily be formed because of an individualized feed.

Ultimately, being educated on how to vote, eligibility, voter suppression and social media literacy is crucial for being an informed citizen, especially as elections approach.

THEY WERE FORCED TO FIGHT, BUT THEY COULDN'T VOTE

TERRA MORRISON • age 12

There was a time when young people in the United States protested in songs and on the streets until they changed the Constitution.

As far back as the Revolutionary War, **conscription** systems were in place in the United States. A mandatory **draft** was used in the American Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The draft was ended in 1973. However, the rules for the draft have not always been consistent. Less than a year into U.S. involvement in World War II, the U.S. government needed to increase the draft numbers. President Roosevelt and his administration faced the fact that half of the 20 million draft-eligible men could not serve, either due to health reasons or because they were **illiterate**. Consequently, the U.S. government needed to increase draft numbers and expand the eligible age from a minimum of 21 to 18.

At the time, the national voting age was 21 years old, and some people thought it was unfair that 18-year-olds were being asked to fight in the war but were not able to vote. These teens were sacrificing their lives without a choice, yet they couldn’t even participate in the decision-making for the country.

In Dwight D. Eisenhower’s 1954 State of the Union address, he said that draft eligible men “should participate in the political process that produces this fateful **summons**.” He urged Congress to propose a **constitutional amendment** which would permit citizens to vote when they reach the age of 18. But Americans would have to wait 17 years—until 1971—for that to actually happen.

Barry McGuire’s 1965 hit song “Eve of Destruction” was about how all these young men were going into war and having to take on a huge amount of responsibility, though they were still not considered old enough to vote. The main slogan people used when protesting the Vietnam War and asking for the voting age to be lowered was “Old enough to fight, old enough to vote!” Activists and groups like the National Education Association, AFL-CIO and the NAACP helped support the movement to lower the voting age.

Sen. Edward (Ted) Kennedy said, “About 30% of our forces in Vietnam are under 21. Over 19,000, or almost half, of those who have died in action there were under 21. Can we really maintain that these young men did not deserve the right to vote?”

In 1971, due to pressure from protests and the difficulty of maintaining separate voting rules for federal and state elections, Eisenhower’s vision was **ratified** into the Constitution with the 26th Amendment.

According to the amendment, “The right of citizens of the United States, who are 18 years of age or older, to vote, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of age.” Young people had won the fight!

West Virginia Sen. Jennings Randolph was right when he described the importance of the younger generation being able to participate in government: “I believe that our young people possess a great social conscience, are perplexed by the injustices which exist in the world and are anxious to rectify these ills.”

Conscription: legally requiring citizens (usually men) to join a government service, typically the military

Draft: another word for conscription into the military

Illiterate: unable to read or write

Summons: a legal document requiring someone to show up somewhere, like to court or to join the military

Constitutional amendment: a change made to the U.S. Constitution

Ratified: when something has been signed into agreement, making it official



culture & activism

The Poor People's Campaign: Then and Now

GIBRAN FREILLA-WILLIAMS • age 13, and INDYKIDS STAFF

In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. launched his final campaign, which was referred to as the Poor People's Campaign. The campaign was a multiracial group effort of people who fought for economic justice for all Americans through lobbying and direct action protest. The original Poor People's Campaign aimed to end economic inequality.

The campaign had three phases. The first phase was to gather in and occupy the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to push politicians to pass the Economic Bill of Rights. The Economic Bill of Rights included anti-poverty efforts like low-income housing and a guaranteed annual income, according to the Civil Rights Movement Archive. The second phase was mass civil disobedience all around the country. The third phase required boycotting of major companies. Unfortunately, Dr. King was assassinated before he could see the completion of his campaign.

A number of his peers continued the work after his death. Then, 50 years later, in 2018, a new multiracial group of people announced a new Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. The key issues of the new Poor People's Campaign are racism, poverty, militarism, military spending and environmental destruction. Some of these issues, like the fight for environmental justice, are problems that King could not foresee.

Rev. William Barber and Rev. Liz Theoharis are the leaders of the current Poor People's Campaign. They are both Protestant ministers who work for social justice. Barber believes in King's idea that the "triplets of evil" are militarism, racism and economic injustice. Theoharis argues for ideas that would bring us together around a living wage, healthcare, voting rights and immigration reform, according to Inequality.org.

The effects of their work are seen in the Biden-Harris administration's student debt cancellation and investment in green infrastructure, both responding to the demands of the Poor People's Campaign. The campaign has built coalitions in 40 states to continue King's dream.

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival organized an event called "Mass Poor People's & Low-Wage Workers' Assembly & Moral March on Washington D.C. & to the Polls" on June 29, where they called on "people of moral conscience to ... uplift and center the needs of the over 135 million poor and low-wage people and workers across the country" and to "launch outreach to 15 million poor and low-wage infrequent voters ahead of the 2024 U.S. elections and beyond."

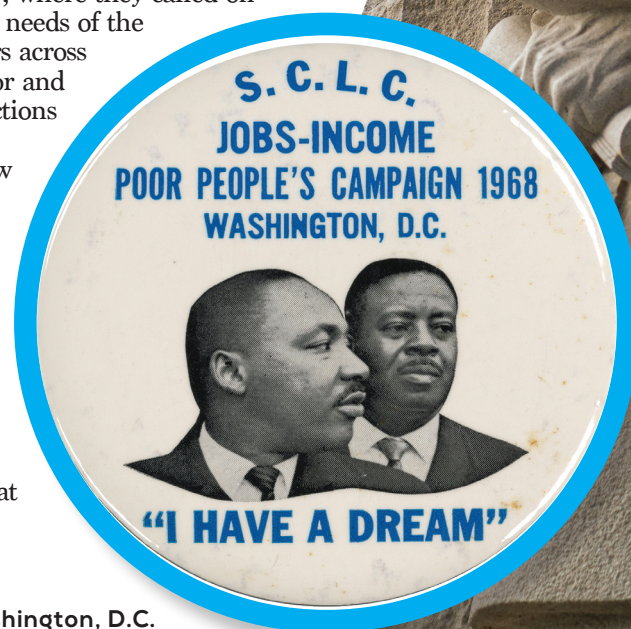
The event, which, according to *Common Dreams*, drew thousands of supporters, highlighted the power of the poor to change the country for the better. It came days after a dramatic debate between presidential hopefuls President Biden and former President Trump and just one day after the Supreme Court ruled that cities punishing people for sleeping in the streets—even when there is no right to shelter—is not cruel or unusual punishment. At the Moral March on Washington, Theoharis said in a speech, "Those most impacted by injustice, organizing together, mobilizing together, and voting together, can force the changes that we know we need that will be good for everybody."

Poor people's campaign button, 1968. Washington, D.C.

Photo: The New York Public Library on Unsplash

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
Washington, D.C.

Photo: J. Amill
Santiago on Unsplash

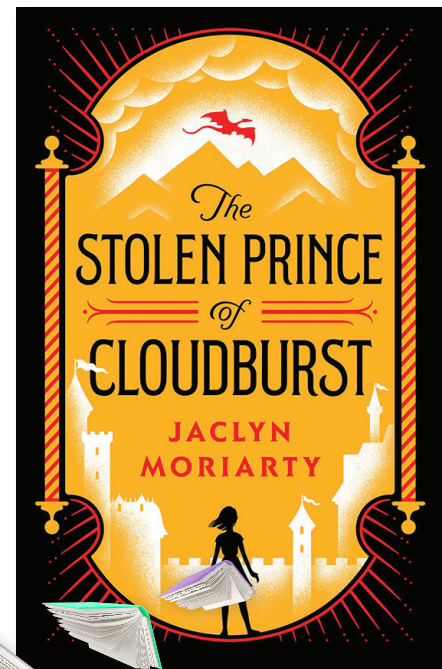


A Great Summer Read

AVA GOETZ • age 9

The *Stolen Prince of Cloudburst* by Jaclyn Moriarty is a fantasy book that follows an adventurous, curious and "normal" girl named Esther Mettlestone-Staranise. Esther, an often-ignored middle child enrolled in boarding school, discovers a number of strange and unsettling changes upon her return to school. Her best friends are missing, and her new teacher is rumored to be an ogre. As events turn from unfortunate to outright dangerous, Esther may be the only one who can protect herself and her school.

My favorite part about this adventure novel is that you can never expect what is going to happen next. The author is very skilled at bringing unexpected twists into the story. It's a page-turner, at 434 pages. Fantasy readers and fans of the *Harry Potter* series would definitely enjoy this book. This is also a must-read for people looking for a female character starring in a fantasy adventure, as this is rare.



Cover image from www.levinequerido.com

Meet *IndyKids* Reporter: 12-Year-Old Terra Morrison!

INDYKIDS STAFF

Meet Terra Morrison, a 12-year-old reporter at *IndyKids* from Charleston, Maine. Of her many hobbies and interests, some of her favorites are competitive gymnastics, skiing, writing, reading, talking with friends, and listening to music and audio books. She describes herself as creative. She loves baby animals, and she loves the colors pink, purple and turquoise.

What sparked your interest in journalism, and how did you decide to become an *IndyKids* reporter?

Terra: I've always wanted to be able to give my opinions on things, as well as give people new information. I've also always loved to write. Journalism was in the back of my mind, and at the beginning of 2022 I got a subscription to *IndyKids*. From then on, I thought it would be fun to write for them, and now here I am! As a young journalist, what topics are you most passionate about, and why?

Terra: I am aware of a wide variety of issues and topics in the world; however, the one I'm most passionate about is women's rights.

Can you share something you've learned from your experience at *IndyKids*?

Terra: Something that I've learned so far from this experience is to be passionate about what you're writing. I know, for myself, at least, that at first I wasn't too excited

about my article. However, after I did some research and began to learn more about the topic, I became more passionate about it. I think this is one of the most important things about writing, and I'm so glad that writing for *IndyKids* was able to make me realize it.

How do you think being a kid reporter contributes to raising awareness and promoting positive change in your community or the world?

Terra: I think that being a kid reporter shows that young people can contribute hugely to the world and make an important impact. I think that doing this raises awareness around important issues, as well as issues that may not be being given a lot of attention. As kids, I believe that we can strive to make the world a better place for everyone living on it, as well as the future generations.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Why Is No One Talking About This Anymore?"
- Exploring Activism Coming in Trends

GRACE STEVENS • age 13

"Why is no one talking about this anymore?"

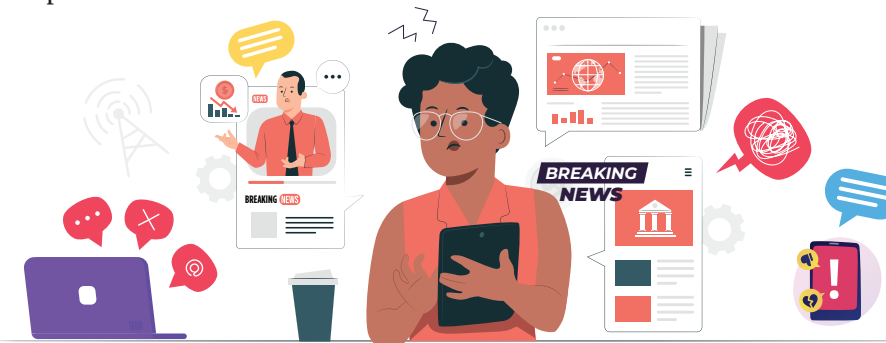
That's a common question asked by news consumers everywhere! Sometimes when reading or watching media, it can seem like every channel or every news publication is talking about one thing for a while, and then they all switch to another—kind of like a trend. While this happens for yearly events like holidays and specific months like Pride Month, Black History Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Month, it can also happen for year-round issues. From Black Lives Matter to climate change, it can seem like issues that affect people's everyday lives are only recorded in the media for a short timespan. Is that just a coincidence?

One reason why it seems like activism or coverage in the media follows a trend is because many newsrooms use the same strategies to decide if a topic is "newsworthy." The Galtung and Ruge list of news value factors (1965) and Shoemaker *et al.* model (1987) are two methods commonly used to decide which stories are predominantly covered. News companies often look for stories that are relevant, timely, simple, negative, have a big impact, are of human interest, are predictable, unexpected, and feature elite people or countries. Because many news companies use these guidelines to decide which stories are covered, similarities in news coverage often take place.

"There's only so much time and money and resources that journalists have," said Ishmael N. Daro, the digital editor of *Democracy Now!*, in an interview. "Sometimes that can kind of take you down a wrong path. And social media is a big driver of that."

Another reason why it can seem like news is coming in trends is because of how much social media and news are intertwined. A study by Pew Research in 2023 found that half of the adults in the United States get their news from social media "at least sometimes." In fact, U.S. adults accessing news on social media sites have become a significant part of social media users. For example, 68% of U.S. adults use Facebook, and 30% of them use it to find news, according to the Pew Research study. Daro said that "[getting news on social media] feels more personal sometimes. If it's somebody that you've followed for a while, you think you actually are friends with them. And you're interested in what your friends are talking about. ... I think, on the other hand, sometimes the way we consume news almost feels more important than the news itself."

In conclusion, there are many reasons why news can feel like it is being followed in trends, from methods to decide newsworthiness to social media. Of course, with some news stories being largely covered, it leaves some stories in the dark. This is why it's important to ask lots of questions, challenge the media to cover smaller issues, and to be your own investigator.



Someday There Will Be... A Mini Forest in New York City!

How a Tiny Forest Could Change a Huge City

NIKHIL SABNIS • age 10



Roosevelt Island, New York, NY, USA

Photo: Jeffery Betts on Unsplash

When you think of New York City, you generally do not think of clean air and places with lush greenery and rich biodiversity. One may think of polluted air, cramped apartments, and no growing space for trees or plants. This could change quite soon thanks to the development of the Manhattan Healing Forest.

The Manhattan Forest is going to be a mini forest located on Roosevelt Island on the East River between Manhattan and Queens. According to the *New York Post*, the forest will support many different kinds of plants and animals. This forest will be the first of its kind in the city, featuring more than 1,000 different native plants that once covered the hills in Manhattan until urban development cleared the land. According to the forest's developers, the forest will be approximately 2,700 square feet, which is the size of a standard tennis court. Though small, this forest will have massive benefits to the area, including cleaner air quality and cooling on hot days, explains the *New York Times*.

This forest will be created using sustainable planting techniques, specifically the Miyawaki style. First, developers will clear the land of everything, then lay down a layer of mulch, compost and dirt. Then, native shrubs and plants are closely planted together and taken care of for three years, until the forest is completely self-sufficient.

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine hopes to build more of these forests in low-income communities of color. The *Guardian* explains how fewer cooling systems, both natural, like trees, and person-made, including air conditioning, are put into place in these communities. A street-level heat assessment revealed the temperature in the Bronx was 8 degrees hotter than the wealthier Upper West Side neighborhood.

These kinds of mini forests have popped up across the globe, in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe. Though small, these forests become amazing, beneficial ecosystems that can thrive in all conditions. "Biodiversity is completely linked with the climate crisis," says Elise Van Middelme, founder of SUGi, a nonprofit organization that is planting the forest. "The array of beauty that comes back where there was nothing is just remarkable."

A Snapshot of My Life,

by IndyKids reporters

What are my favorite summer activities?

I love summer gymnastics practices. I like spending more time with my friends and getting new skills.
Terra, age 12, from Charleston, ME

My favorite summer activity is going to Maine with my cousin Lucia. I like going to the pool and the beach and spending time with my three siblings. I also like going to sleep-away camp with my best friends.
Nadya, age 10, from New York, NY

My favorite summer activity is doing different crafts. My favorite things I have made are paintings and things out of clay.
Grace, age 13, from Bowie, MD

My favorite summer activities are sitting in the sun and eating ice cream. No matter where I am in the world, I can always count on sunshine and ice cream. Soft sun, cool water and the smell of

summer are things that make me content.
Aisha, age 15, from Johannesburg, South Africa

My favorite summer activity is visiting the beach and swimming. Warm and comfortable weather, the salty smell and sound of the ocean, what could be better?
Ava, age 9, from New York, NY

My favorite summer activities are playing tennis, and swimming at the pool or beach. I also enjoy spending some extra time reading in the summer. I love the hot weather, all the ice cream and popsicles, and the new places I visit during summer vacation!
Nikhil, age 10, from San Francisco, CA

My favorite summertime activity is reading by the poolside. The peace of a book in the California heat always comforts me. I also like trying new hobbies with the newfound summer free time.
Leah, age 13, from Modesto, CA

What's All the Noise This Summer? It May Be Cicadas.

AVA GOETZ • age 9

THIS YEAR!
This year is special.

Why? The answer may surprise you. This summer, more than a trillion cicadas will emerge in some areas of the country.

The two main categories of cicadas are **annual cicadas** (also known as dog-day cicadas) and **periodical cicadas**, found in the central and eastern areas of the United States and only present in North America. Annual cicadas can be seen every year, while periodical cicadas only emerge from the ground every one or two decades. This is a double-brood year, the last we will experience until 2037.

The life cycle of a cicada includes three stages: **the egg stage**, during which female cicadas lay up to 400 eggs placed on dozens of trees; **the nymph stage**, when, after six to 10 weeks, young cicadas hatch and soon bury themselves into the ground to drink the liquids of plant roots; and **the adult phase**, when the nymphs come out of the ground, shed their shell and, soon after, mate, lay eggs and start the whole process over again. Annual cicadas typically live between two and five years, while periodical cicadas typically live between 13 and 17 years.

Cicadas have been a source of fascination since ancient times because of their peculiar life cycles. In antiquity, some societies thought of the insects as symbols of rebirth. In ancient Chinese cultures, rulers looked up to cicadas, sometimes even using cicada patterns on their clothing.

Scientists theorize that the periodical cicadas' distinct and oddly timed cycles relate to avoiding predators. Male cicadas produce their distinctive buzzing and clicking noises by vibrating their membranes on their abdomens. These sounds serve as a warning or a call to attract mates. Female cicadas make noise without tymbals by using their wings, a process called crepitation. Others vibrate the ground to make sound. At around 90 decibels, cicadas can be as loud as a motorcycle.

Periodical cicadas have red eyes, black bodies, red/orange veined wings and legs, and they are smaller than annual cicadas. Annual cicadas have dark green to black bodies and green veined wings.

Turtles, fish, birds, skunks, raccoons, dogs, and even humans benefit from cicadas as a food source. According to Bugible.com, an interesting cicada recipe to try is chocolate-covered cicadas.

"You'll need 8 squares of good-quality semi-sweet chocolate and ~ 30 dry-roasted cicadas. First, roast your cicadas for 15 minutes at 225 degrees F. Meanwhile, melt the chocolate in a double-boiler over low heat. Dip the cicadas in the chocolate, place on wax paper, and refrigerate until hardened." Yum!



Thank you for your continued support!



Now more than ever, we need sources of media for our youth that center the stories of people of color, immigrants, women, workers and LGBTQIA+ communities. *IndyKids* is the nation's only social justice-oriented newspaper written by kids for kids. Now in its 19th year in print, *IndyKids* is distributed to classrooms and households in 35 states, helping thousands of youth think more critically about the news of the world. Plus, it's free and ad-free!

Subscription costs cover only the cost of mailing issues to subscribers. We rely on donations to cover all other costs of producing *IndyKids* and running our Kid Reporter Program, through which more than 800 youth have been trained as journalists.

Can you contribute today to help us continue printing *IndyKids* and training the journalists of tomorrow? Thank you for your continued support!

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