

WEEK OF
10.29.07

CURRENT EVENTS

Issue 7 Volume 107

www.weeklyreader.com

IN THIS ISSUE

OBJECTIVES

Main News: Students will learn about this year's Nobel Peace Prize co-winner Al Gore and global warming. Time Trip profiles some of the Americans who have won the Nobel Peace Prize in past years.

News Debate: Students will be able to conduct an informed debate about court-imposed sentences designed to shame offenders.

STANDARDS SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS)

Main News: Global connections; Science, technology, and society

News Debate: Civic ideals and practices

LANGUAGE ARTS (NCTE)

Main News: Students read to build an understanding of the world and to respond to the demands of society.

News Debate: Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend and evaluate texts

GEOGRAPHY (NCGE)

Main News: How human actions modify the physical environment.

SOCIAL STUDIES VOCABULARY

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; global warming

SKILLS BUILDERS

Page 3: Analyze the Graph

Page 4: Reading Skills

Page 5: News Crossword

MAIN NEWS

NOBEL PRIZE

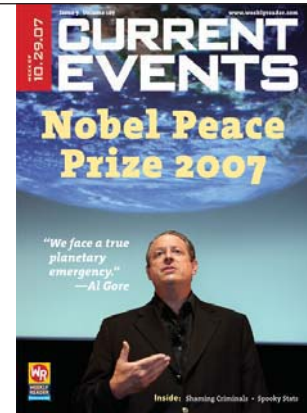
Get Talking

Ask students: Have you heard of the Nobel Peace Prize? What is it? If you could choose the winner, who would it be? Why that person?

Background

- Earth has gone through several significant climate changes, including ice ages and periods of warming. The most recent ice age reached its height about 20,000 years ago. Scientists today can study how Earth's climate has changed over the millennia by looking at the structure of rock layers and drilling deep core samples of earth and polar ice. Even trees tell a story of climate change. By looking at the rings in tree stumps, scientists can estimate when droughts affected that region. Rings are thinner in years when the tree was undernourished. For more information, go to www.unep.org/themes/climatechange.

- When scientists try to measure the role of human activities in climate changes, they typically measure carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.



About 80 percent of human-produced carbon dioxide in the atmosphere comes from burning fossil fuels, such as oil, coal, and natural gas. Carbon dioxide emissions are produced by factories, power plants, automobiles, and powered equipment. Oil, coal, and natural gas are referred to as fossil fuels because they were formed from the remains of plants and animals millions of years ago. For more information, go to www.fossil.energy.gov/education.

Doing More

Have students invent their own international prize. For what would it be awarded? What are some criteria winners would be expected to meet?

ISSUE DATES • 2007-2008

9/10	9/17	9/24	10/1	10/8	10/22	10/29	11/5	11/12	11/26	12/3	12/10	12/17	1/14	1/21
1/28	2/4	2/11	2/25	3/3	3/10	3/24	3/31	4/14	4/28					

Keep current at www.weeklyreader.com/ce. For updates on the stories in this issue, plus games and more, visit *Current Events* online.

Below are some key words used in this issue of Current Events.

IPCC (page 4)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme in 1988. Its charge is to evaluate the risk of human-caused climate change, the potential impacts, and the possible solutions and adaptations. The organization does not conduct research. Instead, it bases its assessments on peer-reviewed and scientific literature. The group has presented four assessment reports to the United Nations since 1990.

Global Warming (page 4)

Global warming is the gradual increase of Earth's temperature. In the past century, Earth's average global temperature has increased by about 1 degree Fahrenheit. Though climate change is nothing new, many scientists are concerned that natural temperature fluctuations are being aggravated by human activity. They believe that human activity has enhanced Earth's natural greenhouse effect. Many vehicles, power plants, and factories emit greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, which trap heat from the sun close to Earth, creating the greenhouse effect.

SHAMING

Get Talking

Ask students: Have you ever been embarrassed? Tell students that some judges use embarrassment, or shame, as a way to deter people from committing crimes. Ask students what they think about that type of punishment.

Notes Behind the News

- Puritans during the colonial era shamed some criminals by making them spend time in the stocks, wooden devices that restrained a criminal's arms and head. Depending on the crime he or she had committed, the criminal was forced to stand in the stocks for a few hours or for days. Shaming penalties were deliberately enforced in full view of the community, often in a town square, so the shamed criminal could see the behavior of good citizens.
- The point of colonial shaming penalties was "to teach [criminals] a lesson and also make it possible for the shamed to reintegrate themselves into the community," says Lawrence Friedman, a Stanford University law professor.

- Jailing criminals was relatively rare in the United States until the 19th century, when public shaming fell out of favor because it was perceived as being undignified.
- Rarely are shaming sentences challenged in court. One challenge involved Shawn Gementera, of California, who was convicted of mail theft in 2003. He was ordered to stand outside a post office for eight hours wearing a sign that read, "I stole mail. This is my punishment." Gementera appealed the decision, and the case made it to the U.S. Supreme Court, but the Court rejected the appeal. In a brief, U.S. Solicitor General Paul D. Clement wrote that Gementera's sentence didn't violate sentencing laws or the U.S. Constitution, which bans cruel and unusual punishment.

Doing More

Have students research colonial punishments and write a brief essay comparing and contrasting them with today's shaming punishments.

ANSWER KEY

Student Edition

Analyze the Graph

1. C, 2. B, 3. B, 4. A

Word Power

1. guesses, 2. important, 3. embellishments, 4. agreement, 5. sweet treats

Comprehension

1. B, 2. C, 3. A, 4. C

Teacher's Guide

Page 3: Analyze the Graph

1. A, 2. A, 3. A, 4. C, 5. B

Comprehension

1. A, 2. C, 3. C, 4. B, 5. A

Page 4: Reading Skills

1. A, 2. A, 3. A, 4. B, 5. B,

This week's puzzle:



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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Current Events*, Publication and Subscription Offices, Weekly Reader Publishing, 3001 Cindel Drive, Delran, NJ 08075.

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SKILLS PAGE**10.29.07****Analyze the Graph**

This graph shows how the average global temperature has slowly changed since 1900. Study the graph, and then answer the questions.

1. Which year had the lowest average global temperature during this time frame?

- (A) 1910 (B) 1940 (C) 1998

2. Since 1980, the annual global temperature has been mostly _____.

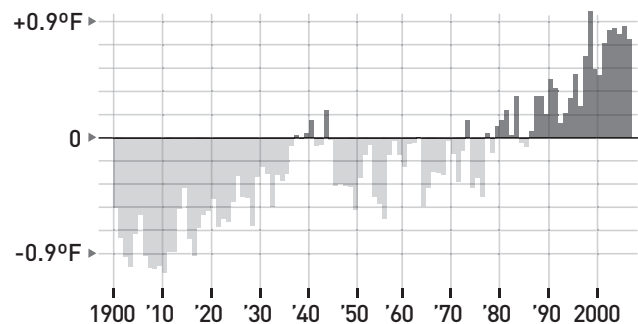
- (A) above average
(B) below average
(C) average

3. Which statement best compares the average global temperatures in the years 1900 and 2000?

- (A) The temperature in 2000 was warmer than in 1900.
(B) The temperatures in 1900 and 2000 were close to the average.
(C) The temperatures were the same.

A Slowly Warming Planet

To illustrate global warming, researchers took 30 years of global temperatures (1961–1990) and found the average for the period. That average is represented by 0 in the graph to show how much cooler or warmer each year from 1900 to 2006 was in comparison.



SOURCE: University of East Anglia, England; The Associated Press

4. Since what year has the average global temperature been consistently above average?

- (A) 1944 (B) 1961 (C) 1987

5. Which conclusion can be drawn from this graph?

- (A) Earth's temperature has risen steadily.
(B) Earth's temperature has fluctuated over the last century, but it is generally rising.
(C) Earth is due for a cooler period.

Comprehension

Read this issue's cover story, "Nobel Peace Prize 2007," and then answer the following questions.

1. What is meant by "stretching the truth"?

- A. Al Gore is manipulating facts to make the situation appear worse than it is.
B. Gore is making up data to support his theories about global warming.
C. Gore's message is far-reaching.

2. How much prize money will Gore and the IPCC share for winning the Nobel Peace Prize?

- A. \$250,000 B. \$750,000 C. \$1.5 million

3. Which statement is a fact?

- A. There is a planetary emergency.
B. Climate change is not a political issue.
C. People started burning fossil fuels more than 200 years ago.

4. Which is the most likely way that global warming could impact international relations?

- A. Countries could dissolve in protest.
B. Tension created by more people competing over increasingly limited natural resources could lead to more wars.
C. It could result in a single global government.

5. Which is most likely true about Gore's opinion regarding the future of global warming?

- A. If worldwide changes are made, global warming can be slowed and even stopped.
B. Global warming can't be stopped, so countries need to prepare for the future.
C. The greenhouse effect is not caused by human activity.

READING SKILLS**10.29.07**

Nobel's Prizes

The passage below is a short biography of Alfred Nobel, the man who created the Nobel Peace Prize. Read it carefully, and then answer the questions at the right.

The Nobel Prizes were the brainchild of Alfred Bernhard Nobel (1833–1896) of Sweden, an accomplished scientist, businessman, and engineer. Nobel had more than 350 patented inventions.

Nobel was born in Stockholm to Immanuel, an engineer and inventor, and Andriette Nobel. The family went bankrupt the year Alfred Nobel was born, and his father left the family in Stockholm in 1837 to seek work elsewhere. He settled in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he opened a mechanical workshop and produced equipment for the Russian army. The family reunited in 1842.

Immanuel Nobel encouraged Alfred Nobel to become an engineer and sent him abroad to learn about chemical engineering. In 1852, Alfred Nobel returned home to help with the family business.

Nobel's greatest scientific achievement was the invention of dynamite in 1867. Named after *dynamis*, the Greek word for "power," dynamite made it easier, safer, and cheaper to blast through rock. The experiments leading up to dynamite's invention were anything but safe, however. Nobel's younger brother was killed in an accidental explosion, and several of Nobel's factories combusted during his career.

At the time of his death, Nobel was a millionaire. He owned 93 factories around the world that produced 66,500 tons of explosives annually.

Despite his work with explosives, Nobel was a pacifist and opposed military use of his inventions. Perhaps to compensate for the destructive results of his work, Nobel—who had no wife or children—left a will bequeathing \$9 million to fund the prizes that bear his name. In addition to the peace prize, awards are given for advances in physics, chemistry, literature, and physiology or medicine. The Nobel prizes are announced in October, but they are always presented on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death. The first prizes were award in 1901.

1. Which of the following best describes the main idea of the story?

- Ⓐ Alfred Nobel believed strongly in peace and created a world prize to support it.
- Ⓑ Alfred Nobel enjoyed dangerous work.
- Ⓒ The Nobel Peace Prize has existed for a little more than 100 years.

2. Which is the best synonym for *bequeathing* (used in the sixth paragraph)?

- Ⓐ giving
- Ⓑ demanding
- Ⓒ taking

3. When are the Nobel Prizes presented?

- Ⓐ December 10
- Ⓑ October 15
- Ⓒ July 1

4. Which is true about Alfred Nobel's invention of dynamite?

- Ⓐ It caused his family to go bankrupt.
- Ⓑ It created an easier and safer method of blasting through rock.
- Ⓒ It wasn't recognized as a great achievement until after his death.

5. The first Nobel prize was awarded how many years ago?

- Ⓐ 50
- Ⓑ 106
- Ⓒ 174

CROSSWORD

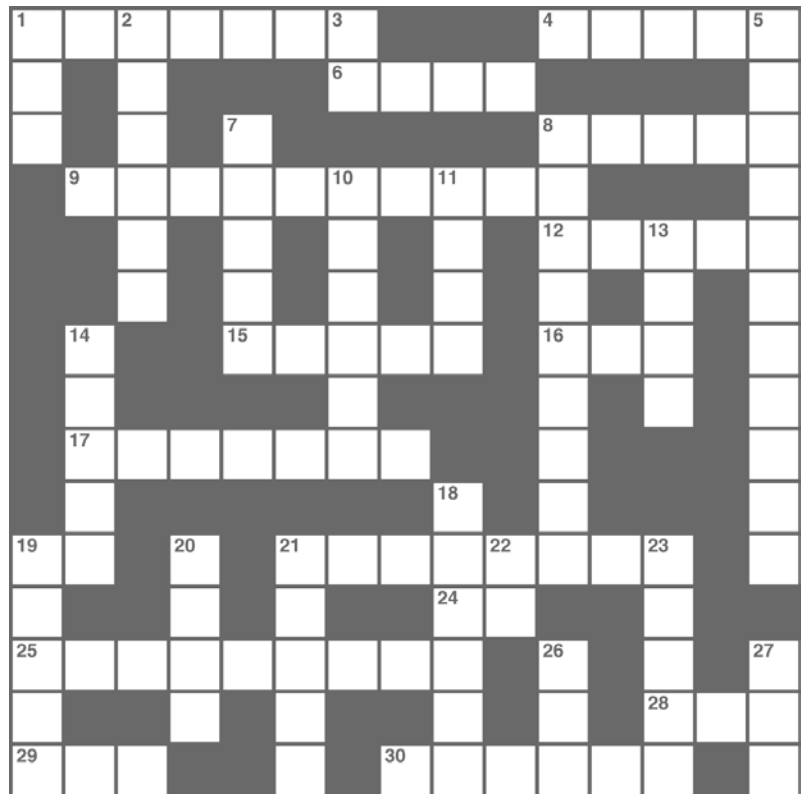
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Across

- 1. court sentence that humiliates
- 4. veggie-lovin' dino: *Futalognkosaurus* ____
- 6. teen facial fear?
- 8. where the accused go
- 9. "revived" cat: ____ tiger (two words)
- 12. dynamite's dad?
- 15. Russian president
- 16. *no*'s nemesis
- 17. It's trash duty in Tennessee for drunken ____.
- 19. iron's periodic I.D.
- 21. The Allen Telescope Array has 42 radio ____.
- 24. bad breakup line: "It's not you; it's ____."
- 25. About 50 percent of kids want this in their Halloween treat bags.
- 28. the Big Apple (abbr.)
- 29. tree downer?
- 30. shaming tool circa 1600

Down

- 1. a half-dozen
- 2. He used to be "the next president of the United States." (two words)
- 3. the largest state east of the



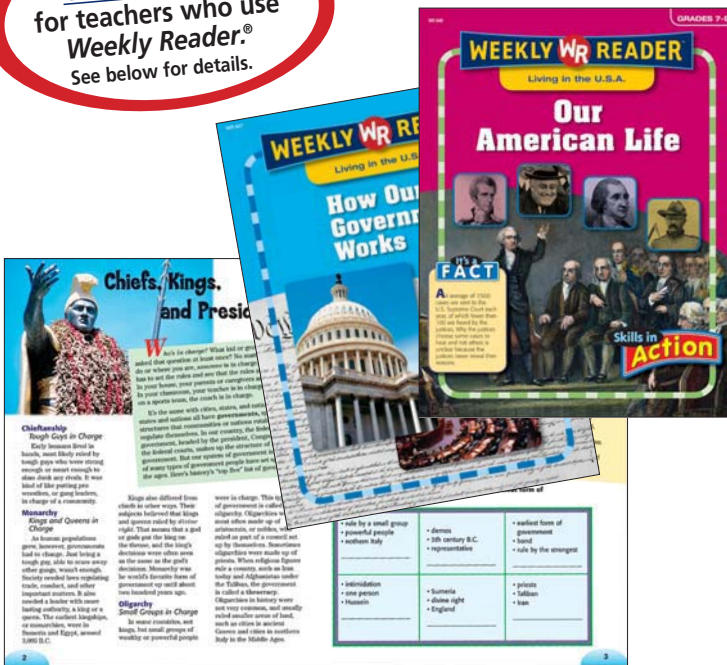
- Mississippi River (abbr.)
- 5. Astronomers in California are searching the skies for ____ life.
- 7. This goes in the upper right of any envelope you send.
- 8. More than 9 billion kernals of this are expected to be made this year. (two words)
- 10. U.S. president who helped facilitate the 1978 Camp David Accords (last name)
- 11. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's country
- 13. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that he won the 2000 election. (last name)
- 14. courtroom controller?
- 18. mob threat: ____ shoes
- 19. "Just the ____, ma'am."
- 20. Al Gore's Nobel cowinner (abbr.)
- 21. telescope benefactor: Paul ____
- 22. Omaha's home (abbr.)
- 23. "Yield" and "Wrong Way," for example
- 26. Federal Communications Commission (abbr.)
- 27. poker player's hope?

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