



In Education

# Weekly Teacher's Guide

February 12-18, 2010

## This Week in History...



- ▶ On Feb. 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in present-day Larue County, KY.
- ▶ On Feb. 14, 2003, in a dramatic showdown, major powers rebuffed the United States in the U.N. Security Council and insisted on more time for weapons inspections in Iraq. Earlier, chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix told the Council his teams had not found any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.
- ▶ On Feb. 15, 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention.
- ▶ On Feb. 16, 2003, more than 100,000 people demonstrated in San Francisco to protest a possible U.S. invasion of Iraq.

### Lesson:

What information can you glean about the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan from the above facts? Add to your knowledge of the two wars by reading any coverage of them in today's newspaper. Next, write down five questions that you have about one of the wars and find the answers to them by doing Internet research. Finally, create a piece of graffiti art that shows your views on the war you researched. Write an interpretation of your art and share it with peers.



Cover may be different in your region.

## Cover story: It's all in the (NASCAR) family\*

Learning areas: careers, family, language arts, decision making

NASCAR dads share a special bond with their kids. Driver Michael Waltrip helped his daughter, Macy, compete in a Pinewood Derby. He and other drivers have also shared the Victory Circle with their kids, and many NASCAR families travel from track to track with their parents, to support them and soak up the family-friendly atmosphere at the races.

### Questions for discussion:

- In your opinion, what are the most family-friendly sports? Why?
- Find a job mentioned in the newspaper that you think would require long hours and possibly travel. Find another that would probably be just nine-to-five. Why is one job more demanding than the other? Which appeals to you more?

### Student lesson:

Jeff Burton's daughter, Paige, is a

vegetarian. She attempted to get her dad to go veggie but was unsuccessful. Think of a change you would like one (or both) of your parents to make. Then, write out a request for the change using the following format:

1. Calmly and clearly describe the change you would like your parent to make.
2. Explain why you want her or him to make the change.
3. Tell how it would make you feel if your mom or dad made the change.
4. Explain how the change would benefit both you and your parent.

Finally, decide whether or not to give your parent your petition for change. Do you think the steps above helped you write a mature, thoughtful request?

\*See TableTalk Sheet

## Swing into laughter with Sarah Silverman

**Learning areas:** self-reflection, encapsulation, synthesis

Comedienne Sarah Silverman is enjoying the success of her Comedy Central show, now in its third season. She also has a new movie and a book coming out. But her career hasn't always gone so well. When she was 22, she was fired from *Saturday Night Live*. Silverman, however, says she would never take the experience back, because it made her so much stronger.

### Questions for discussion:

- What difficult experiences have made you stronger?
- What steps can a person take to rebound after being fired from a job?
- Imagine that you had written a book and were starring in a TV show and a

movie. What would the title of each work be? Explain the significance of the titles you chose.

### Student lesson:

Silverman says that when Twitter first started, she turned up her nose at it. Now, she has 400,000 followers and believes "it's an interesting way to express yourself." Find three articles in the newspaper that you think would appeal to people your age. Adopt the role of a reporter who covers teen issues and develop a tweet for each. Make the goal of your tweet to attract as many new followers as possible. Share your tweets with peers and ask them to decide which one they would be most likely to follow.



## Three secrets to saving money

**Learning areas:** analysis, evaluation, personal finance, marketing

Leah Ingram, author of *Suddenly Frugal*, says the best way to save money is to spend smarter. For example, buying quality shoes that last a long time is smarter than buying cheap ones that rapidly deteriorate and must be replaced. Also, shopping at companies like L.L. Bean and Lands' End that provide warranties and guarantees ensures that your merchandise can be replaced if it wears out.

### Questions for discussion:

- What are some other ways to "spend smarter"?
- What's something you have bought that is a good value? Explain why you believe it was a smart purchase.
- Why is it important to put some of your

money in a savings account?

- Is it better to purchase items with cash or with a credit card? Explain.

### Student lesson:

With a partner, review the advertisements in today's newspaper. Choose one advertisement and identify three ways that the manufacturer could make the product or service a better value for customers. Then, create a new ad for the product or service that includes the changes you identified. Feel free to use some of the features of the old ad. Share your work with the class.

# Monthly Theme: Diversity

According to the Census Bureau, there were 44.3 million Hispanic Americans as of 2006. Despite being a significant minority, Hispanic Americans still suffer inequities in income, education, health care and other areas. NCLR, National Council of La Raza (the community), is a civil rights organization that works to “create opportunities and open the door to the American Dream for Latino and other families.” The organization wants to improve opportunities in five key areas: assets/investments, civil rights/immigration, education, employment and economic status, and health. Visit the NCLR website at [www.nclr.org](http://www.nclr.org) and click on “topics.” Next, choose three of the topics and scan the information about each one. Identify one goal in each of the three areas that NCLR is trying to reach. (In some cases, you will need to click on the topic and read more about it in order to identify a goal.) Then, write the topic in the first column below and the goal in the second column. In the third column, explain how reaching that goal will help Hispanic Americans gain equality in the U.S. (One example has been provided for you.) Finally, look through the newspaper and find one article that you think is of particular interest to the Hispanic American community. Explain your choice at the bottom of the page.

Topic	Goal	How meeting the goal is important to achieving equality
<i>Example:</i> Farmworkers	<i>Increase the wages of farmworkers.</i>	<i>Increasing wages will decrease the current income gap between whites and Hispanics and bring Hispanics closer to economic equality.</i>
1.		
2.		
3.		

Headline of article that is of interest to Hispanic Americans: \_\_\_\_\_

Why the article is important to this group: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Click on it:** To learn about the issues affecting Hispanic Americans , visit the NCLR website at [www.nclr.org](http://www.nclr.org).



