

# News Currents

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## The Supreme Court returns

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**Who Am I?**

See inside cover



## Who Am I?

Can you answer this question? If not, here are some clues.

### BASIC/GENERAL

A) I am one of the main leaders of the Palestinian people. For many years, the territory of Palestine has been controlled by Israel.

B) My people and the government of Israel have been in conflict for a long time. Many U.S. presidents have tried to help our two sides reach a peaceful agreement.

C) Barack Obama is the latest president to try to solve this conflict. Last week, he joined with the Israeli prime minister and myself for our first three-way meeting, saying "it is time to move forward." **Who am I?** (*Mahmoud Abbas.*)

### ADVANCED

A) I am the president of the Palestinian Authority and a leading member of the Fatah political party. For many years, the Palestinians have been in conflict with Israel over control of the Palestinian territories of Gaza and the West Bank. These areas have been controlled by Israel since 1967.

B) One of the biggest points of contention has been the issue of Israeli settlements on Palestinian land. I have said I will not resume peace talks with Israel until Israel freezes building of these settlements. President Obama has also asked Israel to freeze settlement-building. But so far Israel has refused.

C) Last week, President Obama personally met with me and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for our first three-way meeting. This was widely seen as an important step in getting the peace process moving again. President Obama said, "It is past time to talk about starting negotiations, it is time to move forward." **Who am I?** (*Mahmoud Abbas.*)

## News Names, News Places, News Words

### News Names

**Constitution** — The basic set of rules and principles on which the U.S. government is based; **Filip Vujanovic** — The current president of Montenegro; **Louisa May Alcott** — 19th century American novelist; **Nicolas I** — Montenegro's first and only king; **Supreme Court** — The highest court in the United States; **Tarahumara** — A member of the native people of northwestern Mexico.

### News Places

**Florida; Massachusetts; Mexico; Montenegro; Serbia; Spain**

### News Words

**freedom of speech** — The right to express any opinions without restraint; **huarache** — A type of leather sandal originally worn by Mexican Indians; **hybrid** — In this case, the offspring of two animals of different species; **indigenous** — Originating naturally in a particular place; **invasive species** — A species of plant or animal that is brought to an area and endangers its native species; **justice** — In this case, a judge on the U.S. Supreme Court; **python** — A large, heavy-bodied constrictor snake usually found in the tropics; **referendum** — A general vote by the public on a single political issue; **transcendentalism** — A philosophical and social movement that developed in New England in the 1830s.

# The Supreme Court returns

The Supreme Court begins its fall session.

## BASIC

This building in Washington, D.C. is where nine people do one of the most important jobs in the country. **Who knows what this building is called?** (*The Supreme Court.*) The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States. Judges on the Supreme Court are called “justices.” Every year on the first Monday in October, the justices go back to work after their summer vacation. This year, there is a new justice on the Supreme Court — Sonia Sotomayor, who replaced retiring justice David Souter. She is the first Latino person ever to become a Supreme Court

justice. The justices will have to make decisions about some of the laws in our country. Sometimes these laws are very confusing. It’s the Supreme Court’s job to decide if the laws follow our nation’s Constitution. **Who knows what the Constitution is?** (*The basic set of laws that are used to run our country.*) These words are from the part of the Constitution that created the Supreme Court. Let’s learn more about how the court works. NEXT



## GENERAL

Every year on the first Monday in October, nine people return to work in this Washington, D.C. building after their summer break. They are judges on the most powerful court in our nation, the Supreme Court. Judges on the Supreme Court are called “justices.” The chief justice is John Roberts. This year there is a new justice on the court, and she is the first-ever Latino justice. **Who knows her name?** (*Sonia Sotomayor.*)

For the next several months, the court will hear arguments and make decisions on many important cases. The Supreme Court is different from most other courts in the United States in several ways. For one thing, the Supreme Court only hears cases that have to do with the Constitution. **What is the Constitution?** (*The basic set of laws*

*on which our country is based. All other laws in our country are supposed to follow the rules in the Constitution.*) Here you see the part of the Constitution that established the idea of a Supreme Court. Most courts are led by one judge, and in most courts, a group of ordinary people decides whether a person is guilty or not guilty. **Who knows what this group is called?** (*A jury.*) If a jury decides whether a person is guilty or not guilty, that decision must be unanimous. **What does that mean?** (*Everyone on the jury must agree one way or the other.*) But on the Supreme Court, the nine justices make decisions, and their decisions don’t have to be unanimous. If a majority of the justices agree, their decision is final. **How many Supreme Court justices would make a majority?** (*Five.*) Let’s take a look at how the court works. NEXT

## ADVANCED

Next Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court convenes for its fall term. This year marks the first time the court has had a Latino justice. **Who can name her?** (*Sonia Sotomayor.*) **Who can name the chief justice of the Supreme Court?** (*John Roberts.*) **How many of the other seven justices can you name?** (*Stephen Breyer, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Samuel Alito, Anthony Kennedy, John Paul Stevens, and Antonin Scalia.*)

The Supreme Court is the only court established by the Constitution, in the article quoted here. No details beyond this were specified, and later laws decided the court’s composition, how often it would meet, and other details. The court rules

strictly on constitutional cases, and trying to predict what it will do has always been difficult. In the past, many proceedings that went on in the Supreme Court were kept secret until the court issued its decisions. The court has become more open to the public in recent years, but it still conducts much of its business in private. **Can you explain why the court operates with a degree of secrecy?** (*The founding fathers of the United States wanted the Supreme Court to operate independently from other branches of government and from public and political pressures. This is why the justices must be sequestered, or isolated, when they are in session.*)

Let’s take a look at how the court works. NEXT

# The Supreme Court returns (cont'd)

The makeup of the court has changed, and could change more in the next few years.

## BASIC

Here you see all the Supreme Court justices. The president appoints Supreme Court justices, and the Senate approves them. President Bush appointed the chief justice, John Roberts. The justices on the right usually have conservative opinions, or opinions that agree more with Republicans, while the justices on the left usually have more liberal opinions, or opinions that are more likely to be in line with the views of Democrats. Justice Kennedy has voted both ways during his time on the court, so his vote is called a “swing” vote. Justices

are appointed to the court for life, so most judges stay on the court until they retire or die. One justice, John Paul Stevens, is 89 years old. And since several other justices on the court right now are age 70 or older, President Obama might have to appoint some new justices within the next four years. **What do you think are the most important qualities that a Supreme Court justice should have?** NEXT



## GENERAL

The Supreme Court is part of the judicial branch of government. **What are the other two branches?** (*The executive branch, meaning the president and vice president, and the legislative branch, meaning Congress.*) Supreme Court justices are not elected, but elections can have a big effect on the Court. That's because the president nominates Supreme Court justices. And the Senate approves or rejects these nominations. Nominating a Supreme Court justice is very important, because justices have the job for life. They can't be removed except by impeachment, which means being charged with serious misdeeds — and this has only happened once, more than 200 years ago. Justices usually keep their jobs until they die or decide to retire. One justice, John Paul Stevens, is

89. Justices often delay retirement until a president they agree with is elected. **Why might they do this?** (*They want the president to nominate someone with beliefs similar to themselves.*) Justice Stevens votes on the liberal side of most cases, as do the other justices on the left here. The justices on the right usually vote on the conservative side. Justice Kennedy is considered a swing vote — he could go either way. In general, Republican presidents appoint more conservative justices and Democratic presidents appoint more liberal judges. **What do you think are the most important qualities a Supreme Court justice must have? Why?** During their time on the Supreme Court, justices will make decisions that can have a big effect on our country. NEXT

## ADVANCED

Although Supreme Court justices are not elected, elections can have a big influence on the court. **Who knows why?** Justices are nominated by the president, and approved or rejected by the Senate. And Supreme Court justices have the job for life. There is only one mechanism for removing a justice for serious misdeeds. **Who can name it?** (*Impeachment.*) This has only happened once to a justice, and it was more than 200 years ago. And the Senate rarely rejects nominations; the last time this happened was in 1987.

Justices have been known to delay their retirement until the election of a president whose views are more aligned with their own. **Which retiring justice did Sonia Sotomayor replace?** (*David Souter.*) There is also speculation that Justice Stevens,

now 89, may soon retire. President Obama may have more opportunities to put his stamp on the court, but the more conservative judges on the court — shown here on the right — are unlikely to retire soon. **Do you think there should be a mandatory retirement age for justices? Why or why not?** Justices Breyer, Ginsburg, Stevens, and Sotomayor are considered liberal, while Justice Kennedy is seen as a swing vote on many issues. **What major issues and rights could be affected if the court swings sharply one way or the other? What do you think are the most important characteristics a Supreme Court justice must have? Why?** This session the court will be making a decision on a case that could have a powerful impact on future elections. Let's take a look at it. NEXT

# The Supreme Court returns (cont'd)

One side in this case argues that corporations are entitled to free speech.

## BASIC

The first case the Supreme Court will hear is about private companies, known as corporations, and free speech rights. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects freedom of speech. It means anyone can say their opinion and not be punished for it by the government. But the First Amendment protects more than just spoken words. It protects many forms of expression, including advertising for political candidates. The court will look at the question of whether companies have the same free speech rights as people do. This

case involves a documentary movie that was made by people who don't like Hillary Clinton and didn't want her to be elected president. The movie was paid for partly by corporations. The quote you see here was part of the argument made before the court by a lawyer for the documentary makers. **Do you think that corporations should be entitled to the same rights to free speech that people have? Why or why not?** NEXT



## GENERAL

One of the first cases heard by the Supreme Court this term is a very complicated one, but it could have a big effect on politics in the United States. It has to do with corporations and the First Amendment to the Constitution. That amendment protects many basic freedoms, including freedom of speech. **What do you think freedom of speech means?** For one thing, it means that you can state your opinion without being punished for it by the government. But the First Amendment protects more than just spoken words. It protects writing and music and movies, and all forms of expression. That includes advertising for or against political candidates. **How important do you think advertising is in political campaigns?**

corporations many of the same rights and protections that individual people have. But over the years, the Supreme Court has been unclear about how far these rights should go. This particular case involves a documentary movie, made by people who don't like Hillary Clinton, and didn't want her to be elected president in 2008. The movie was paid for partly by money from corporations. This raises the question: **Should corporations be allowed to spend unlimited amounts of money to support or oppose political candidates?** The argument you see here was made before the Supreme Court by a lawyer for the makers of the documentary. **Do you think corporations have a basic right to free speech just as individuals have? Why or why not?** NEXT

## ADVANCED

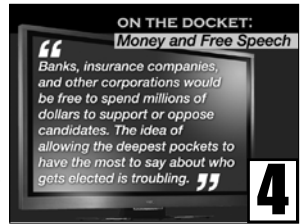
One of the first cases heard by the Supreme Court this term could have wide-reaching effects on the way political campaigns are run in this country. The case is a complex one, but it boils down to the question of whether the First Amendment protects corporations. With few restrictions, the First Amendment protects all forms of expression. Political speech, being central to a democracy, has traditionally been granted the highest degree of First Amendment protection.

involves a documentary film titled "Hillary: The Movie," which was released during the 2008 presidential campaign. A lower court ruled it was effectively a 90-minute campaign ad against Hillary Clinton, and was therefore subject to campaign finance laws. This meant that the film could not be aired just before the election. **Do you think this was a fair ruling? Why or why not?**

Going back to the 19th century, the Supreme Court has granted corporations some of the same rights as individuals. But over the decades, the court has gone back and forth over how far these rights should extend. This particular case

"Hillary: The Movie" was paid for partly with corporate money, and this has raised the question of whether the lower court infringed on the corporations' free speech rights. The argument you see here was made before the court by the lawyer for the filmmakers. **Do you think this is a valid argument? Why or why not?** NEXT

# The Supreme Court returns (cont'd)



Granting corporations the right to free speech could allow them to spend unlimited money on political campaigns.

## BASIC

The words you see here shows the main argument against allowing companies to have the same free speech rights as individual people have. The term “deepest pockets” here means having the most money. Allowing corporations full free speech rights could allow them to spend unlimited amounts of money on ads for or against certain candidates. Right now, corporations are banned from spending money directly on political advertisements. They also can’t give money directly to candidates. **Why do you think this rule was put in place?** But

individual people are free to donate money to candidates they support, although there is a limit on this too. The law puts limits on how much corporations can spend on political candidates in order to make sure that elections can’t be decided just by groups that have the most money. Whichever way the court rules in this case, it will have a big effect on future elections. **How do you think the court should rule in this case?** END

## GENERAL

The quote you see here represents some of the arguments against giving corporations the same free speech rights that people have. **What do you think the term “deep pockets” means here?** (*Having the most money.*) The laws about how political campaigns are paid for are very complicated. But in general, the law limits how much groups can spend on political ads. **What do you think is the reason for this?** (*The idea is to limit the influence of money on elections.*) Corporations, for example, are not allowed to spend money on political ads within 60 days before an election. **Do you think this is a good rule? Why or why not?**

Supporters of this law believe that if it is overturned, corporations will spend a lot of money to support or oppose certain

candidates. **Why do corporations want to spend money on elections?** Some say this could mean that corporations could have a lot of influence on the outcome of elections. **Why do you think some people are worried about this?** (*One reason is that they think that giving so much power to corporations will drown out the voices of individual people, who don’t have as much money to spend as companies do.*)

**Do you agree or disagree with the argument you see here? Why?** This case is an example of how Supreme Court decisions can have a huge effect on our country. **How do you think the Supreme Court should rule in this case? Why? How do you think future elections would change if the Supreme Court rules in favor of the corporations in this case?** END

## ADVANCED

The quote shown here represents the opposition to granting corporations First Amendment protections. In 1990, the Supreme Court recognized the, quote, “corrosive and distorting effects,” unquote, of corporate money on political campaigns. Despite recent reforms, campaign finance law remains complicated. But in general, groups are limited in how much they can spend on political ads. This doesn’t include corporations only; it also includes groups such as unions and issue advocacy groups like the National Rifle Association or the Sierra Club. These groups are banned from spending directly on advertising that supports or opposes a candidate within 60 days before a general election. **Do you**

**think this is a reasonable restriction? Why or why not?**

Supporters of these restrictions fear that, if they are overturned, it could open the floodgates to unlimited campaign spending by corporations, unions, or special interest groups. One attorney for a group in favor of keeping the restrictions warned, “The average person should be concerned that striking down [this ban] will result in a flood of corporate money ... that will drown out the average person’s political speech.” **Do you think this is a realistic scenario? Why or why not? Should the court uphold the restrictions? Why or why not? How important do you think it is to limit the influence of money on political campaigns?** END

# The Tarahumara: a people apart

The Tarahumara, an indigenous group that lives in a remote area of Mexico, has long fascinated the outside world.

## BASIC

The people on the left are members of a group in Mexico called the Tarahumara. They are an indigenous group. That means they were living in Mexico long before explorers from Spain arrived in the 16th century, much like our Native Americans. When the Spanish arrived here, the Tarahumara moved to a region called Copper Canyon, seen at right. They still live a very simple life, without cars, TVs, or other technology. **Could you live this way?** They have a very interesting belief system.

They value respect for one another more than anything else, and don't place any value in material things. **How does that differ from our culture?** Those who have lived among the Tarahumara say they are truly unable to tell a lie! **Do you believe this? Do you know anyone who never tells a lie? What would our society be like if we were like this?** NEXT



## GENERAL

In the left photo, you see members of a group of people known as the Tarahumara, who live in Mexico. They are an indigenous group. That means they were living there long before explorers from Spain arrived in the 16th century, much like our Native Americans. When the Spanish arrived here, the Tarahumara moved to a region called Copper Canyon. Its very steep cliffs and very far-off location kept the Tarahumara safe from the Spanish. **How do you think geography often affects history?** The Tarahumara still live in this region, seen at right. They still live a very simple life, without cars, TVs, or other technology. **Could you live this way?** By Mexico's most recent count, there are about 106,000 Tarahumara, making them Mexico's second-largest indigenous group. They usually dress

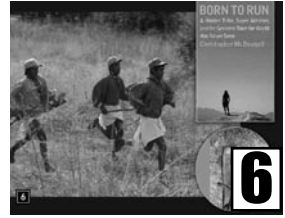
in brightly colored clothes, like in the photo. They grow corn and beans, and many of them also raise cattle, sheep, and goats. And they often move from one place to another with their livestock, so their homes are very simple. They have an interesting belief system. They value respect for one another more than anything else, and don't place much value on material things. **How does that differ from our culture?** Those who have lived among the Tarahumara say they are truly unable to tell a lie! **Do you know anyone who never tells a lie? What would our society be like if we were like this?** People have been very interested in the Tarahumara for a long time. Perhaps the most fascinating thing about them is their amazing skill at long-distance running. They can run for hours, and not even seem like they are tired! NEXT

## ADVANCED

**Have you heard of the Tarahumara, an indigenous group that lives in the Sierra Madre mountains in Mexico?** This group, with its legendary athletic ability, has long fascinated the outside world. Originally the Tarahumara lived in much of the state of Chihuahua, but when the Spanish explorers arrived in the 16th century, the Tarahumara retreated to the Copper Canyon region, shown in the right photo. The nearly inaccessible canyons and remote location have helped keep the Tarahumara safe and their culture alive. The Tarahumara still live a simple life, in caves, under cliffs, and in small wood and stone cabins, and 21st-century technology has not reached them. By Mexico's latest count, there are 106,000 Tarahumara living in Mexico, making them Mexico's second

largest native Indian group. They grow corn and beans, and many of them also raise cattle, sheep, and goats. Nearly all the Tarahumara migrate in some form during the year. Many of them have converted to Catholicism, yet have incorporated their own ancient belief system. Those who have studied them say the Tarahumara have such a strict moral code that they are unable to tell a lie. **What would our society be like if no one was able to lie?** Respect for one another is considered the most important thing, and material possessions are unimportant. **Would we be better off as a country if we suddenly followed this code?** Yet it's another aspect of their culture — their legendary running ability — that attracts a great deal of attention. NEXT

# The Tarahumara: a people apart (cont'd)



In a new book, the author delves into what makes the Tarahumara have a nearly superhuman running ability.

## BASIC

A recent book—“Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Super Athletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen” — looks at the Tarahumara’s amazing abilities in long-distance running. They can run for hundreds of miles without stopping! **Do you know anyone who runs marathons or other long-distance events?** Some of this ability has to do with how the Tarahumara have adapted to their surroundings over the centuries. Friends and neighbors

might live quite far apart from one another, so the Tarahumara

are used to running many miles on narrow mountain paths. While most long-distance runners wear special, expensive shoes, the Tarahumara run barefoot, or in simple sandals, called huaraches, but never get injuries or foot problems. **Can you imagine running in these? Would you like to see the Tarahumara run?** NEXT

## GENERAL

On the right you see a book that was recently published, titled “Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Super Athletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen.” The author, Christopher McDougall, is a long-distance runner himself, and he often had injuries and foot problems, like many other long-distance runners. **Do you run, or do you know anyone who runs marathons or other long-distance events?** One doctor told him to stop running, that it was destroying his body. McDougall didn’t believe it. He had heard about the Tarahumara and so he studied their culture to learn about how and why they are such amazing runners. Some of this ability has to do with how they have adapted to their environment over the centuries. Friends and neighbors might

live quite far apart from one another, so it became second nature to the Tarahumara to run many miles on narrow mountain paths. McDougall decided the running ability was simply a part of their culture, and that their graceful running is a trait they have kept for thousands of years, which our own ancestors once had, but eventually lost. “The Tarahumara have a saying: “Children run before they can walk,” McDougall said. “For them, running isn’t work ... It’s fine art, like it was for our ancestors.” McDougall also noted that while most long-distance runners invest in expensive shoes, the Tarahumara run barefoot or in simple sandals, called huaraches, but never get injuries or foot problems. **Can you imagine running in these? Would you like to see the Tarahumara run?** NEXT

## ADVANCED

A recently published book, “Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Super Athletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen,” is bringing new attention to the Tarahumara’s astonishing abilities as long-distance runners. Living at high altitudes has given them tremendous lung capacity, and having lived for generations amid a transportation network of narrow footpaths through the canyons, running for miles seems to be effortless for them. They can run hundreds of miles without stopping, and they face none of the injuries and fatigue that plague most long-distance runners. **Can you think of any unique adaptations people in your part of the world have had to make?** An integral part of Tarahumara culture is their “foot throwing” competitions, relays where the balls are kicked by the runners and

related to the next runner while teammates run ahead to the next relay point. These races can actually last days at a time. Christopher McDougall, the book’s author, is himself a runner, and, after being told by his doctor that running was destroying his body, he set out to understand how the Tarahumara can outrun anyone in the world and not suffer stress injuries. He discovered that the Tarahumara run either barefoot or in the simplest of huarache sandals, seen in the bottom photo. Despite decades of advancements in modern shoe design, most other runners continue to suffer stress injuries. **Why do you think running barefoot or in simple sandals would put less stress on the body than running in expensive running shoes? Have you ever tried running barefoot? How did it feel?** NEXT

# The Tarahumara: a people apart (cont'd)

Thousands of cultures are at risk of disappearing.

**BASIC** Do you understand the quote here? What does Mr. Davis mean by “impoverished” here? (That we would lose a lot when we lose cultures, and having many different cultures makes the world a better place.) The Tarahumara have managed to survive for hundreds of years, but some people are worried that their way of life is now being threatened, as other people start coming into their area. This has happened throughout history all over the world. Many indigenous cultures still survive, but they struggle constantly. On the right



is a San — *sahn* — man, one of the Bushmen tribes of southern Africa. And on the left you see four chiefs from the Kayapo tribe, native to Brazil. A language is an essential part of a culture. **Do you understand why?** By 2100, more than half of the more than 7,000 languages spoken on Earth may disappear. **What do you think countries should do to protect their indigenous peoples?** END

**GENERAL** Do you agree with the quote on the screen? What do you think he means here by “impoverished”? Indigenous people often don't survive when a more powerful culture arrives. The Tarahumara culture, partly due to geography, has managed to endure for thousands of years, but now they too are facing problems as other people start coming into their area. The Mexican government even has a plan to build hotels and other attractions to bring tourists to their area. **How would this affect the Tarahumara people?** Over the centuries, hundreds of indigenous groups have disappeared from Earth. Many still survive, but they struggle constantly to keep their culture alive. More powerful groups want their land and their food supplies are

endangered. More than 300 million people in the world are indigenous, making up at least 5,000 different cultures in more than 70 countries. On the right is a San — *sahn* — man, one of the Bushmen tribes of southern Africa. And on the left you see four chiefs from the Brazil's Kayapo tribe. Researchers use the disappearance of languages as a way to measure the disappearance of world cultures. Every 14 days a language dies. By 2100, more than half of the more than 7,000 languages spoken on Earth — many of them not yet recorded — may disappear. Some countries are working to preserve their diverse cultures. In our own country, efforts are being made to preserve some of the dozens of Native American languages. **What do you think countries should do to protect their indigenous peoples?** END

**ADVANCED** What do you think of the quote on the screen? Do you agree? About 6 percent of the world's population is indigenous peoples, made up of at least 5,000 cultures in more than 70 countries. But modern development continues to encroach on the way of life of many of these groups, as their homelands and traditional food sources disappear. On the right is a San — *sahn* — man, one of the Bushmen tribes of southern Africa. And on the left you see four chiefs from the Kayapo tribe, native to Brazil. The Tarahumara culture, partly due to geography, has managed to endure for thousands of years, but is facing the same struggles as other indigenous groups. Some of the people now wear Western clothing, and their language, while still widely spoken, is slowly losing ground to Spanish. Officials in Chihuahua

are even planning development in the Copper Canyon area to attract tourism. **How do you think the Tarahumara would be affected?** Those who study this issue, like Davis, often use the disappearance of languages as a way to measure the disappearance of world cultures. Every 14 days a language dies. By 2100, more than half of the more than 7,000 languages spoken on Earth — many of them not yet recorded — may disappear. Some countries are working to preserve their diverse cultures. In Wales, a region of Great Britain with its own ancient language and culture, the Welsh language is taught in schools. And in our own country, efforts are being made to preserve some of the dozens of Native American languages. **What do you think industrialized countries should do to protect their indigenous peoples?** END

# Giant pythons invade Florida

Scientists warn that two non-native python breeds could produce an invasive hybrid python in the Everglades.



## BASIC

Neither of these two snakes belongs in the United States. The Burmese python shown on the left comes from Southeast Asia, and the African rock python, shown on the right, come from the southern half of Africa. But now they are both found in parts of Florida.

**How do you think they got there?** Many people buy so-called “exotic” animals as pets, and many of the exotic pets brought to the United States come through Miami. Some sellers of these snakes may have released unwanted ones into the wild, even though this is illegal. These snakes are causing prob-

lems in Florida, because they have no natural enemies to

keep their populations down like they would in their native countries. And now scientists are worried that the two types of pythons could get together and breed. If they do, their offspring would be a “hybrid,” — that is, a new breed with traits from both parents. If these hybrids can also reproduce, it would mean even more snake problems for Florida. Let’s find out more about this problem, NEXT

## GENERAL

Neither of these two types of snakes belongs in the United States, but both are causing problems in parts of Florida. They are pythons, a type of powerful snake that kills its prey by wrapping it up and suffocating it so it can’t breathe. The Burmese python shown on the left belongs in Southeast Asia, and the African rock python, shown on the right, belongs in the southern half of Africa. **How do you think they came to Florida?** The city of Miami, Florida, is the center of the so-called “exotic pet” trade. Many unusual animals are brought to Miami and sold to breeders and pet stores. But these pythons grow very large — up to 20 feet long — and can be very aggressive. Experts think that the snakes were released into the wild by pet owners or breeders who were unprepared to take care of their snakes. This is illegal, but

there isn’t much the police can do unless they catch someone in the act.

These pythons are causing problems in Florida. **Who can guess why?** They have no natural enemies to keep their population in check like they would have in their native countries. And now scientists are warning of another problem: the two breeds could get together and reproduce. Their offspring would be something called a “hybrid.” Hybrid animals are the offspring of two different breeds, which have a combination of the traits of both parents. Most animals can only reproduce with other animals of the same type. But some different types can reproduce — the offspring of a horse and a donkey is a mule. If Burmese pythons and African rock pythons can reproduce, it means more snake problems for Florida. NEXT

## ADVANCED

These pythons aren’t native to Florida, but they’re causing big problems in the sunshine state nonetheless. They have arrived in Florida via the exotic pet trade, much of which is centered in Miami. Pythons can grow up to 20 feet long and can be aggressive. Unprepared breeders and pet owners likely illegally released the pythons into the wild. Some lawmakers have tried to ban exotic pets, while others say this would drive the lucrative trade underground and make it harder to regulate. Although it is illegal to release non-native animals into the wild, authorities say it is nearly unenforceable unless they catch someone in the act. **What do you think could be done to curb this problem? Why do you think there is such a thriving market for exotic pets?**

Burmese pythons, like the one on the left, are known to be living in the Everglades, and African rock pythons, shown here on the right, have been found very nearby. Separately, these snakes have caused problems for native species, and we’ll look more at this problem in a moment. But wildlife biologists warn of another danger: the two species could interbreed and create a hybrid breed. This has happened in captivity, but not yet in the wild. Most hybrid offspring of two species are sterile. **Can you think of any examples of this?** (*The mule, the offspring of a horse and a donkey; or the liger, the offspring of a lion and a tiger*) But because of a rare phenomenon called “hybrid vigor,” there’s a chance the two pythons could create a fertile hybrid, which would add to Florida’s python problems. NEXT

# Giant pythons invade Florida (cont'd)

Invasive species can wipe out native species.

## BASIC

The map here shows where Burmese pythons have been found in Florida. They've mainly been found in the Everglades, a huge area of swamps and wetlands in Florida. Much of the Everglades is a national park. **Have you ever been to the Everglades?** The photo here shows what happened when a Burmese python took on a Florida alligator. **What do you think happened here?** (*The python tried to swallow the big alligator, but its stomach burst.*) Pythons are an "invasive species." This means that they have been brought to an area where they don't belong, and they are a danger to the native animals there. In



Florida, there are no natural predators for these pythons.

**What is a predator?** (*An animal that kills another animal for food.*) This summer, Florida began a python hunt, allowing hunters to kill pythons in the wild. So far, about 18 pythons have been killed, out of an estimated 150,000 in the wild. **Is this hunt a good way to deal with the python problem in Florida? How else could the state control its python problem?** END

## GENERAL

The map here shows where pythons have been found in Florida, mainly in or near the Everglades. The Everglades is a huge area of swamp and wetlands, much of which is a national park. **Have you ever been to the Everglades?** The photo here shows what happened when two of the most powerful predators in the Everglades met — a Burmese python and an alligator. The python tried to eat the alligator, but the python's stomach burst open, and you can see part of the alligator sticking out in front. But since nobody saw the fight, it's impossible to say what happened. **What do you think happened?**

This Burmese python didn't survive, but in general pythons survive very well in

the Everglades. They survive so well that they are a danger to the native animals in the Everglades, and even pets in the area. Pythons kill their prey by quickly wrapping around it and suffocating it. Animals that are introduced to an area and then take over are called "invasive species." Pythons have been known to be an invasive species in Florida for more than 10 years, and Florida officials are trying to figure out what to do about it. This summer, Florida began allowing hunters to kill pythons in the wild. **Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?** So far, hunters have killed fewer than 20 pythons, out of an estimated 150,000 in the state. **How else do you think Florida could deal with its python problem?** END

## ADVANCED

This map shows the areas where pythons have been found in Florida, mainly in or near the Everglades. Pythons have survived and thrived in the Everglades, becoming an invasive species over the past 10 years. They quickly established themselves at the top of the food chain, surpassing the alligator. The photo here is evidence of a struggle between a Burmese python and a gator. **Have you seen this photo before?** In this case, both combatants came out on the losing end, but it likely wasn't the struggle that killed this python. Experts speculate that the snake was too full and immobilized to escape another gator's attack, or the snake's stomach simply burst because its prey

was too big.

Florida's governor Charlie Crist was spurred to action after a released python killed a toddler in the state earlier this spring. The governor began a python bounty hunt, and the hunt was recently expanded. But so far, fewer than two-dozen pythons have been killed, of an estimated population of 150,000. In addition, Florida lawmakers plan to tighten state python regulations, including possibly raising the \$100 price tag for an ownership permit. **What do you think is the best way for Florida to tackle its python problem? Do you think owning pythons should be banned in the state? Why or why not?** END

# Country of the Week: Montenegro

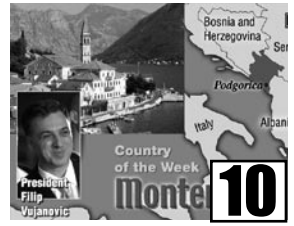
Montenegro's dark forests inspired the country's name.

## BASIC

This week we are exploring a tiny country called Montenegro — *MONN-teh-NEGG-roe*. Montenegro's name means "black mountain." From the picture here, you can see what some of the landscape in Montenegro looks like. **Do you understand how it got its name?** Montenegro is small — it is smaller than the state of Connecticut. It is in the southeastern part of Europe, next to the Adriatic Sea. The country also borders Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, and Albania. Montenegro's capital city is called Podgorica — *PAWD-gawr-*

*eet-sah*. People in Montenegro are called Montenegrins. **M o s t**

Montenegrins speak the Serbian language, and most belong to a Christian religion called Eastern Orthodox. Pictured is Montenegro's president, Filip Vujanovic — *Fee-Leep Voo-YAH-no-vihtch*. He has been president since 2003, although Montenegro did not become a truly independent country until 2006. **NEXT**



## GENERAL

This week we are exploring the tiny country of Montenegro — *MONN-teh-NEGG-roe*. The name Montenegro means "black mountain." **From the picture you see here, can you see how they came up with this name?** A mountain range called the Dinaric Alps runs through Montenegro, and these mountains are covered with dark forests.

Montenegro is a small country — slightly smaller than the state of Connecticut. Its population is about 680,000 people. The capital city of Montenegro is called Podgorica — *PAWD-gawr-eet-sah*. **Who can guess what continent Montenegro is on?** (*Europe.*) Montenegro is in the southeastern part of Europe. It borders the

Adriatic Sea. It also borders the countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, and Serbia. Montenegro has a special connection with Serbia, which we'll learn more about shortly.

People who live in Montenegro are called Montenegrins. The official language of Montenegro is Serbian, but some people also speak the Montenegrin language. About three-quarters of Montenegrins are Christians, and belong to a religion called the Eastern Orthodox Church. The man you see here is Montenegro's president, Filip Vujanovic — *Fee-Leep Voo-YAH-no-vihtch*. He has been president since 2003, although Montenegro did not become a truly independent country until 2006. **NEXT**

## ADVANCED

This week, we will explore the tiny country of Montenegro — *MONN-teh-NEGG-roe* — a name that means "black mountain." The name refers to the forested, mountainous landscape of Montenegro, which contains some of the roughest terrain in Europe. Montenegro is in a region of Europe called the Balkans, which covers much of the southeastern part of the continent. The country borders Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Albania. **Who knows which sea Montenegro borders?** (*The Adriatic.*)

Montenegro is slightly smaller than the state of Connecticut. Its population is roughly 680,000 people. The capital city is Podgorica — *PAWD-gawr-eet-sah* — a city of 136,000. The city was bombarded during World War Two, and after the war it was re-named Titograd, one of several towns

re-named after Yugoslavia's communist dictator. The city returned to its original name in 1992. **How do you think these events affected the people of the city?** Pictured is Montenegro's president, Filip Vujanovic — *Fee-Leep Voo-YAH-no-vihtch*.

Citizens of Montenegro are called Montenegrins. The country's official language, and the one most Montenegrins speak, is a Serbian dialect. Ethnically, about 43 percent of the population is Montenegrin, and about 32 percent is Serbian. Muslims make up about 17 percent of the population, although they include ethnic Albanian, Bosnian, and Montenegrin Muslims. Three-quarters of Montenegrins are Eastern Orthodox Christians. **NEXT**

## Country of the Week: Montenegro (cont'd)

Montenegro was united with Serbia for 14 years.

### BASIC

Here you see the picture of Montenegro's first and only king, Nicholas I. He ruled the country from 1910 to 1918. He was also a poet who wrote the country's national anthem. After World War One, Montenegro joined with several other countries that became a larger country called Yugoslavia. This country fell apart in the 1990s, and a new country was formed called Serbia and Montenegro. Tiny Montenegro got the help of the larger country of Serbia, and Serbia got easy use of the Adriatic Sea. **Why would it help a country to be next to the sea?** *(It makes it much easier to ship products*

*in and out of the country.)*

In 2006, the people of Montenegro held a vote called a referendum, on whether they should stay united with Serbia, or become independent. Just over half the people voted for independence. In June 2006, the government of Montenegro declared its independence. The other picture here shows a Montenegrin newspaper on that day. **How would you have voted? Why?** END



### GENERAL

Here you see a picture of Montenegro's King Nicholas I, who ruled the country from 1910 to 1918. He was also a poet who wrote his country's national anthem. In 1919, Montenegro became part of a larger country, which was later named Yugoslavia. **Have you ever heard of Yugoslavia?** This country no longer exists – it split apart in the 1990s, during a series of civil wars. Montenegro was part of Yugoslavia until 1992. Then it split from Yugoslavia and united with Serbia, forming a country called “Serbia and Montenegro.” **Why would two countries band together like this?** *(It allows them to share military and other resources.)* Together, Serbia and Montenegro made up an area that is a little bigger than the state of Kentucky, with about 10.5 million people.

In 2006, the citizens of Montenegro got to vote on whether or not to stay united with Serbia. This special election was called a referendum. The referendum passed by only about 2,300 votes. Independence was strongly opposed by ethnic Serbs, who make up about a third of the population, and there were fears that protests and unrest would occur. But the new country remained mostly peaceful. On June 3rd, 2006, the government of Montenegro declared its independence. Later that month, it became the newest member of the United Nations. The other picture here shows a newspaper the day after the elections. **What do you think the headlines might say? If you lived in Montenegro, do you think you would have voted for or against independence? Why?** END

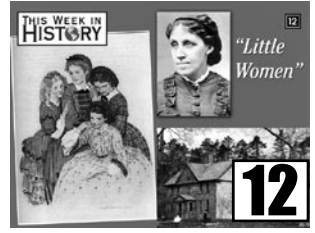
### ADVANCED

The picture on the left is Montenegro's King Nicholas I, who ruled from 1910 to 1918. After World War One, Montenegro joined with the Kingdom of Serbia and other areas to form the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. This area was to become the country called Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia was an unstable country, made up of numerous ethnic groups and led by brutal dictator Slobodan Milosevic. Bloody civil war broke out in the 1990s, and Yugoslavia fell apart. Serbia and Montenegro decided to unite and form a loose federation, and this federation was officially recognized in 2003. Each one elected its leaders separately, but the two shared resources in an umbrella government located in Belgrade, Serbia's capital. **What do you think each gained from this partnership?** Serbia

and Montenegro was about the size of Kentucky, with 10.5 million people.

In May 2006, Montenegrins voted in a referendum on whether or not to remain in the federation. The vote for independence passed by only about 2,300 votes. Independence was strongly opposed by ethnic Serbs, and there were fears that protests and unrest would occur. But the new country remained mostly peaceful. On June 3rd, 2006, the Parliament of Montenegro declared its independence, and on June 28th, the country became the 192nd member of the United Nations. The other photo here shows a Montenegrin newspaper following the referendum. **Do you understand why ethnic Serbs would be against independence? Do you think the voters made the right choice?** END

# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



Louisa May Alcott's famous novel was first published on September 30th, 1868.

## GENERAL

"Little Women," one of America's most famous novels, was published this week in 1868. **Do you know who wrote this novel?** (*Louisa May Alcott, shown in the picture here.*) This classic work tells the story of four sisters during the Civil War, but it is still read, and well loved, by people today.

Louisa May Alcott was born in 1832 in Pennsylvania, but she spent most of her life in Concord, Massachusetts. Louisa's father, Amos Bronson Alcott, was an educator who was friendly with some of the most famous American writers and thinkers of the time, including Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. **Have you ever heard of them? What did they do?** (*Emerson was a poet and essayist; Thoreau wrote the famous book "Walden."*) These men were part of a movement called transcendentalism — *tran-sen-DEN-tal-iz-um* — that encouraged people to think for themselves and seek knowledge from within. **Does this philosophy sound like a good one to you?**

Amos Bronson Alcott founded a school that was quite unusual for its time — he refused to beat his students, and taught them by making education fun instead of just making his students repeat facts. **Do you think his ideas were ahead of their time?** But the school failed after six years, and he was unable to provide for his family, which included four daughters and a wife, all living in a home they called "Orchard House," shown at bottom right.

Luckily, one of those daughters turned out to be Louisa May Alcott. She worked as a teacher, a housekeeper, and a seamstress, among other jobs. The other girls also worked, and their mother was one of the first women in Massachusetts to hold a job in social work. But Louisa May had the most financial success...as a writer. Her first story was published in 1852,

and she published many other melodramatic novels and magazine stories from then on. **What does "melodramatic" mean?** (*Overly emotional.*) This writing helped her family stay out of poverty. In 1862, she worked as a nurse for Union troops in the Civil War until she got sick with typhoid fever. Her writing started to change, and her book "Hospital Sketches" — based on her time as a nurse — won her a reputation as a serious writer.

Looking for a bestseller, a publisher asked Alcott to write a book for young girls. She was reluctant at first, but she came through with a novel that was an instant national best-seller. "Little Women" is the story of a family with four sisters, shown in the illustration at left. **Do you know their names?** (*Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March.*) In the book, the family is also quite poor. **Do you think she based this book on her own childhood? Have you ever read "Little Women"? Did you like it? Why or why not?** It has been remade in many forms: movies, plays, musicals, cartoons, and even an opera. **Have you seen any of these other works?**

Alcott had a very simple style of writing. She was fond of saying, "Never use a long word when a short word will do as well." **Is this good writing advice?** She wrote other children's books later, including "Little Men," "Eight Cousins," and "Jo's Boys," and they sold well at the time. But none of her other books has been as enduringly popular as "Little Women," one of the true classics of American children's literature. **What are some of your other favorite children's classics? Why do you like these books? What do they have in common?** END

# FACES AND PLACES

## Dan Brown

Author Dan Brown's latest novel, "The Lost Symbol," sold more than 1 million copies in the first day it was available to the public. "The Lost Symbol" is Brown's first novel since "The Da Vinci Code" was published in 2003. "The Da Vinci Code" also broke sales records, remaining on the bestseller lists for more than two years. It was made into a movie starring Tom Hanks. This is the third book featuring the character Robert Langdon, who is an expert in symbols and who solves mysteries involving strange riddles. Brown's books, some of which deal with religious themes, have been controversial in some circles. **Have you read any of Brown's books?**

## Bill Clinton

Former President Bill Clinton's fifth annual "Global Initiative" began last week in New York City. This year, the event centered on the issue of gender equity, or equal rights for women and men. "No country can prosper if it leaves half its people behind," said Melanne Vermeer, the State Department's ambassador-at-large for global women's issues. "The most dangerous places in the world, frankly, are those places where women are put down in the greatest way. It's where societies implode and where states fail." The Clinton Global Initiative brings together the public and private sector to discuss solutions to problems in four areas — climate change, poverty, global health, and education. **Do you think women in America are treated as equals to men?**



## Georgia

Flooding caused by heavy rainfall killed at least 10 people in Georgia and Alabama. The Atlanta area was hard hit. Hundreds of homes were under water, thousands of people were without power, and millions of commuters were stranded. Large sections of five major highways were closed as officials waited for waters to drain, causing major traffic headaches in a metro area that already has some of the nation's worst traffic congestion. Georgia's governor, Sonny Perdue, asked President Obama to declare a state of emergency in Georgia. Officials estimated \$250 million in damage in the state. Many residents who lost their homes had no flood insurance and face financial disaster. **Have you ever experienced flooding where you live?**

## Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

This U.S. city, once known for its gritty steel mills, has spent decades trying to remake its blue-collar image, and now is a haven for technology companies and "green" business. Still, many were surprised when it was announced that Pittsburgh would host this year's summit of the G-20, the group of 20 developing nations formed in 2003. President Obama was given the chance to pick the city after G-20 leaders decided the event would be held in the United States. Obama said he wanted to showcase how Pittsburgh has been able to reinvent itself. Pittsburgh beefed up security with thousands of extra police as protesters from all over the world descended on the city as the summit began last week. **Did you hear any news coverage of the G-20 meeting?**

# WHERE IN THE WORLD?

*reproducible activity*

**Write the names and numbers of the locations on the map next to their descriptions below.**

a. This European nation conquered Mexico.

b. The Tarahumara people live in this North American nation.

c. Louisa May Alcott lived in this U.S. state.

d. Invasive pythons are causing problems in this U.S. state.

e. This Eastern European country became independent in 2006.

f. Several people died recently in flooding in this U.S. state.

*Answers on inside back cover*



# Cartoon of the Week

This cartoon spoofs an old saying to take a look at the debate over health care reform.

## BASIC

This week's cartoon is the work of Teasha Martinez, a high school student from Nevada. This cartoon uses an old saying to make its point. **Does anyone know it?** ("You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink.") This is called a proverb, a short saying that states a piece of common-sense advice. It means that no matter how hard you try to convince people of something, you still can't control what they do. **What's happening in this cartoon?** (President Obama is standing next to a horse, labeled "America." He wants

the horse to drink from a container of water labeled "Health Care Plan." But the horse looks confused about whether it should drink.)

**What is the cartoonist trying to say?** (That President Obama is trying hard to convince the U.S. people and Congress that his health care reform plan is best for the country, but many Americans are not sure.) **Do you think this is a good cartoon?** END



## GENERAL

Teasha Martinez, a 12th-grader at Albert M. Lowry High School in Winnemucca, Nevada, drew this week's cartoon. This cartoon uses an old saying to make its point. **Does anyone know it?** ("You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink.") This is called a proverb: a short saying that states a piece of common-sense advice. **What's happening in this cartoon?** (President Obama is standing next to a horse, labeled "America." He wants the horse to drink from a container of water labeled "Health Care Plan." But the horse looks confused about whether it should drink.) **What is the cartoonist trying to say?** (That President Obama is trying hard to convince the U.S. people and Congress that his health care reform plan

is best for the country, but many Americans are not sure.) Actually, a recent poll shows that most Americans want health care reform and most are even in favor of the so-called "public option," a government-run health insurance plan that would be more affordable than private insurance. **What are the arguments for and against the public option? What do you think about the debate over health care? Do you think Congress and Obama will be able to pass a bill? Do you think it will include a "public option?" What do you think of this cartoon? How does the cartoonist make use of symbols to make her point?** NewsCurrents wants you to send us your cartoons! Every cartoon we receive will be entered into our Student Editorial Cartoon Contest. END

## ADVANCED

This week's cartoon is the work of Teasha Martinez, a 12th-grader at Albert M. Lowry High School in Winnemucca, Nevada. **What old adage is this cartoon spoofing?** ("You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink.") President Obama stands beside a horse labeled "America," in front of a container of water labeled "Health Care Plan." "C'mon," thinks Obama. Meanwhile, the horse looks confused on whether or not to drink. The cartoon cleverly sums up the situation regarding health care reform. President Obama has been trying hard to sell his plan to the public and Congress, but the American public is much like the horse: confused. **Why do you think so many people are confused about the bills in Congress?** In spite of this, a recent

poll shows that most Americans are very much in favor of health care reform. And most support the so-called "public option." **Do you? Why or why not?** Next week, NewsCurrents will publish the results of its poll on "the public option." **What do you think about the debate over health care? Why do you think much of the media coverage has focused on extreme rhetoric? Do you think Congress and Obama will be able to pass a bill? Is this an effective cartoon? What editorial cartoon techniques does the cartoonist employ to make her point?** The editors of NewsCurrents love to get your cartoons! Send them in and they could be featured in this space. Every cartoon we receive will be entered into our Student Editorial Cartoon Contest. END

## Newspaper Activities

### A different apple a day

It's apple harvest time. There are many, many different kinds of apples. See how many you can find in your newspaper's grocery ads. Make a decorative poster showing different kinds of apples and listing their names.

### Odd stories

Twenty-foot pythons? Giant rats discovered? These are odd stories that have been in the news. What is the oddest story in the newspaper this week? Clip it out and bring it in to share with your class.

## Newspaper statistics

The newspaper contains many important statistics. See how many of these statistics you can find in today's newspaper:

- 1) Yesterday's high temperature in your area
- 2) Yesterday's high temperature in the country
- 3) The Dow Jones average
- 4) The time of tomorrow's sunrise
- 5) The win/loss record of the top team in each division of the National and American Leagues

### Writing Activity — Bumper politics

Bumper stickers are a way to get a message across to a lot of people. Pick one or more issues that you care about. Create as many bumper sticker slogans as you can to communicate your opinion in a short, clever way.

## Internet links

### Who am I?

You can read profiles of both Mahmoud Abbas and Benjamin Netanyahu at BBC News.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/country\\_profiles/803257.stm#leaders](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/803257.stm#leaders)

### Supreme Court returns

You can read the transcripts of the arguments before the Supreme Court in this case here.

[http://www.supremecourt.us/oral\\_arguments/argument\\_transcripts/08-205\[Reargued\].pdf](http://www.supremecourt.us/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts/08-205[Reargued].pdf)

### A people apart: The Tarahumara

Read a National Geographic profile of the Tarahumara people.

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/11/tarahumara-people/gorney-text>

### Giant python invasion

Read more about the Florida's python problems at National Geographic.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/09/090911-pythons-florida-giant-snakes.html>

### Country of the Week: Montenegro

Check out the BBC's "Country Profile" of Montenegro.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country\\_profiles/5033274.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/5033274.stm)

### This Week in History

You can visit the website of Orchard House here to learn more about Louisa May Alcott's life and work.

<http://www.louisamayalcott.org>

### Faces and Places

Time reviews Dan Brown's latest novel, "The Lost Symbol."

<http://www.time.com/time/arts/article/0,8599,1923182,00.html>

Read more about former President Bill Clinton's "Global Initiative" program in this Associated Press article.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090923/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/us\\_clinton\\_global\\_initiative](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090923/ap_on_re_us/us_clinton_global_initiative)

USA Today covers the aftermath of the devastating floods in Georgia and other Southern states.

[http://www.usatoday.com/weather/floods/2009-09-22-flooding-tuesday\\_N.htm?poef=HFMostPopular](http://www.usatoday.com/weather/floods/2009-09-22-flooding-tuesday_N.htm?poef=HFMostPopular)

Why was Pittsburgh chosen for the G-20 summit? Read about it here.

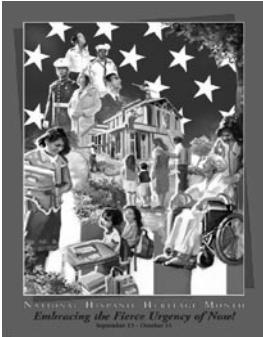
<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1925535,00.html?xid=rss-topstories>

### Cartoon of the Week

Find out more about NewsCurrents' Student Editorial Cartoon Contest on our website. <http://www.newscurrents.com/intro/edcartoons/carcon2.html>

# Word Search

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month! Find all the Latin American countries in this week's word search.



- |                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| ARGENTINA          | ECUADOR   |
| BRAZIL             | MEXICO    |
| CHILE              | PANAMA    |
| COLOMBIA           | PERU      |
| COSTA RICA         | VENEZUELA |
| CUBA               |           |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC |           |

*Solution on inside back cover*

L T C E U B E O C S A P U G C C P L  
 E D I L B R O B D H O R M C U H A E  
 O C A E C U A D O R L I I J P M N G  
 S D L A I N C A M O M M N V A E A E  
 E P E R U C T N I E E F N E B N M T  
 R B A G U H A E N E X E S N I T A N  
 N I A E D E G K I B I A H E L F T S  
 E N N N L O K O C M C N B Z L D O I  
 C O S T A R I C A K O H L U O C R W  
 I O A I O I A C N E T E L E S S A E  
 N O I N N P L A R S S N E L P T L U  
 H B L A E W A W E R C N M A L E M C  
 M R L N T X S G P E A G Y O A C A O  
 O A E T A T C C U R O U O P Y U N T  
 R Z B C O L O M B I A I E Z A B E S  
 I I O C S A I V L E K L I R R A T I  
 S L T D V B L C I S C H I L E T O S  
 O I T P E R U E C S E A U Y A W L D

## BASIC REVIEW QUIZ

- 1) The Supreme Court decides whether laws follow the (CHOOSE ONE: Constitution, Declaration of Independence.)
- 2) TRUE OR FALSE: The president appoints justices to the Supreme Court.
- 3) The first case before the court this term involves (CHOOSE ONE: corporations, individuals) and free speech rights.
- 4) The Tarahumara people live in (CHOOSE ONE: Guatemala, Mexico).
- 5) The Tarahumara people reportedly are unable to (CHOOSE ONE: hit someone, tell a lie).
- 6) TRUE OR FALSE: Invasive pythons are causing problems in the state of Alabama.
- 7) The invasive pythons are the African rock python and the (CHOOSE ONE: Burmese, Brazilian) python.
- 8) Most people in Montenegro speak (CHOOSE ONE: French, Serbian).
- 9) Montenegro became an independent country in (CHOOSE ONE: 1980, 2006).
- 10) Louisa May Alcott's most famous novel was "Little \_\_\_\_\_."

### ESSAY OR DEBATE QUESTION

What do you think is the best way for states to handle the problem of invasive species? Explain your answer.

## GENERAL REVIEW QUIZ

- 1) There are \_\_\_\_\_ justices on the Supreme Court.
- 2) The (CHOOSE ONE: House of Representatives, Senate) approves or rejects nominees to the Supreme Court.
- 3) One of the first big cases heard by the Supreme Court this term involves corporations and the \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment.
- 4) Author Christopher McDougall's book about the Tarahumara focused on their \_\_\_\_\_ ability.
- 5) The Tarahumara moved to Copper Canyon to get away from (CHOOSE ONE: British, Spanish) explorers.
- 6) Burmese pythons and African rock pythons are a serious problem in the state of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7) In the United States, these pythons are (CHOOSE ONE: endangered, invasive) species.
- 8) Most people in Montenegro follow the (CHOOSE ONE: Christian, Muslim) religion.
- 9) Montenegro was once part of a larger country known as (CHOOSE ONE: Yugoslavia, the European Union).
- 10) "Little Women" was written by (CHOOSE ONE: Louisa May Alcott, Harriet Beecher Stowe).

### ESSAY OR DEBATE QUESTION

What do you think we can learn from the Tarahumara? Explain.

## ADVANCED REVIEW QUIZ

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ is the chief justice of the Supreme Court.
- 2) Supreme Court justices can only be removed from office by the process of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) Dating back to the 19th century, the Supreme Court granted \_\_\_\_\_ some of the same rights as individuals.
- 4) The Tarahumara live in the Mexican state of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) By 2100, more than half of the more than (CHOOSE ONE: 400; 7,000) languages spoken on Earth may disappear.
- 6) Two invasive species of \_\_\_\_\_ are causing problems in Florida.
- 7) Biologists warn that the two species could possibly reproduce, creating a \_\_\_\_\_ species.
- 8) Montenegro is in a region of Europe known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9) Independence in Montenegro was strongly opposed by ethnic \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10) Louisa May Alcott's family and views were heavily influenced by the writings of Emerson, Thoreau, and other \_\_\_\_\_ thinkers.

### ESSAY OR DEBATE QUESTION

Write a short essay either for or against limits on political spending by corporations, unions, and advocacy groups.

## Answers to Where in the World:

a-4, Spain; b-1, Mexico; c-3, Massachusetts; d-5, Florida  
e-2, Montenegro; f-6, Georgia

## Solution to Word Search:

L T C E U B E O C S A P U G C C P L  
 E D I L B R O B D H O R M C U H A E  
 O C A E C U A D O R L I I J P M N G  
 S D L A I N C A M O M M N V A E A E  
 E P E R U C T N I E E F N E B N M T  
 R B A G U H A E N E X E S N I T A N  
 N I A E D E G K I B I A H E L F T S  
 E N N N L O K O C M C N B Z L D O I  
 C O S T A R I C A K O H L U O C R W  
 I O A I O I A C N E T E L E S S A E  
 N O I N N P L A R S S N E L P T L U  
 H B L A E W A W E R C N M A L E M C  
 M R L N T X S G P E A G Y O A C A O  
 O A E T A T C C U R O U O P Y U N T  
 R Z B C O L O M B I A I E Z A B E S  
 I I O C S A I V L E K L I R R A T I  
 S L T D V B L C I S C H I L E T O S  
 O I T P E R U E C S E A U Y A W L D

## Quiz Answers

### BASIC QUIZ

- 1-Constitution
- 2-TRUE
- 3-corporations
- 4-Mexico
- 5-tell a lie
- 6-FALSE
- 7-Burmese
- 8-Serbian
- 9-2006
- 10-Women

### GENERAL QUIZ

- 1-nine
- 2-Senate
- 3-First
- 4-running
- 5-Spanish
- 6-Florida
- 7-invasive
- 8-Christian
- 9-Yugoslavia
- 10-Louisa May Alcott

### ADVANCED QUIZ

- 1-John Roberts
- 2-impeachment
- 3-corporations
- 4-Chihuahua
- 5-7,000
- 6-pythons
- 7-hybrid
- 8-Balkans
- 9-Serbs
- 10-transcendentalist

## NewsCurrents Student Editorial Cartoon Contest

**THE RULES:** Entrants can submit original cartoons on any subject of national or international interest. Students may submit as many cartoons as they wish. Each cartoon must be verified as the original work of the student by one of the student's teachers. The teacher's signature on the back of the cartoon will serve as verification. NewsCurrents does not accept responsibility for the authenticity of any cartoons. Each cartoon must include the student's name, grade, address, and home telephone number, and the teacher's name, name of school, school address, and school telephone number. Please print this information legibly on the back of each cartoon. Cartoons without this information will be disqualified.

FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD PRIZE winners will be chosen in each of three competition categories: K-6; 7-9; 10-12. Prize winners will receive U.S. Savings Bonds.

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Cartoons must be postmarked by **March 1, 2010**, to be eligible. Please mail entries to:

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