

# April 6th through 17th

## High School Continuous Learning Menu Projects

**Directions:** Each day read for 30 minutes and then pick one activity below to complete that is age appropriate. Working with a sibling is acceptable and encouraged. When you've completed an activity, check it off the list and then you can return the cover page to one of our feeding school sites in drop off boxes on Fridays or fill the cover page out digitally and email it to your teacher. Any pictures you take can be shared with your teacher. By sending these to your teacher, you are also giving the district permission to share on district social media.

Suggested times for length of activities:

**3 hours per day for grades 6-12**

## High School ELA/Spanish Continuous Learning Projects

**Directions:** Each day read for 30 minutes and then pick an activity below to complete. Try to complete 3-4 a week. Check with your teacher on how they would like you to share it with them.

1. You will be communicating with your teacher through email more than ever. Write an Email demonstrating proper etiquette to your teacher. Let them know how you are doing and any questions you have. Provided are some options to make sure your message is presented properly. [Guidelines](#), Google Slides [Presentation](#), or take a look at [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#) for information.
2. Is your generation better equipped for social distancing? Why or why not?
3. Many musicians, artists, dancers, poets, and fitness coaches are offering free concerts or free classes right now. Join in one of these events, then **write** a recommendation to your peers, encouraging them to join in for the next class, lesson, concert, etc.
4. Spanish - Describe a friend or family member. Include their name, age, relation to you, where they live, some of their likes and dislikes or hobbies, and a few adjectives describing their personality.  
Ex. Mi primo que se llama Rodrigo tiene ocho años. Vive en San Francisco con su mamá, su papá y sus hermanos. Es cómico, alto y muy inteligente. Le gusta jugar fútbol y voleibol
5. Find an article about how a state or country responded to the current COVID 19 crisis. Compare and contrast it to how you have seen your state, your friends, or yourself respond to the crisis. What do you think we as a society should do from this point forward to assure we are not in a similar situation in the future?

Check out this website! [bit.ly/hskidcovidweb](https://bit.ly/hskidcovidweb)

6. If you had known Thursday, March 12 was your last day at school this year, what would you have done differently?

7. Create 5-7 questions to interview a family member about their life. Create a timeline for their life and include some of the fun facts from your questions. Draw/take a picture of your family member and write a 5-7 paragraph biography. Share your work with your family member as a *gift*.

8. Take the protagonist or antagonist of any novel you read in your English class this year and write a week of diary entries in their voice as if they were going through this pandemic. Feel free to add illustrations/pictures.

9. Choose a TV show and write a bonus episode! Make sure your episode includes all pieces of the plot diagram - exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Your episode can be in short story or script format.

10. Read or listen to any grade appropriate novel of your choice. Create a soundtrack for the novel with 8-10 songs. Describe when the song would play and a short (2-4 sentence) explanation for your decision.

11. Listen to the podcast Stuff You Missed In History Class titled "SYMOHC Classics - Why did a riot start over Shakespeare?" Write a modern day news article about what you learn.

<https://www.iheart.com/podcast/stuff-you-missed-in-history-cl-21124503/episode/symhc-classics-why-did-a-riot-59230661/>

12. Watch one of the listed movies. Use online resources to write a compare and contrast list of the movie to the Shakespeare play off which it is based. *10 Things I Hate About You*, *The Lion King*, *She's the Man*, *Gnomeo and Juliet*, or *West Side Story*

13. If and when a vaccine is created for COVID-19, how would you prioritize who will receive the vaccine first? Justify your choice.

14. Spanish - Tell me about at least 3 items in 3 different rooms of your house. Include what color they are or another adjective to describe each item (9 items total). Remember to put the adjectives after the objects and to make them agree in gender (m, f) and number (singular or plural). Ex. Los libros azules

Ex. En mi garaje, hay un monopatín rojo, unos patines azules y unos esquís viejos.

Frases útiles:

En mi garaje – In my garage

En mi cuarto: In my room

En la cocina: In the kitchen

En mi sala: In my living room

En el comedor: In the dining room

Hay = There is, there

15. Research a social influencer and show how they impact decisions made by young people. Are they productive or a detriment to society? Can they be both? Make a google slides presentation to present your findings.

16. Create your own activity for this list and share it with your teacher.

17. What is the latest show you have binge watched? Write a review and describe how the character(s) evolves through the show.

18. Most talk shows are currently doing interviews from home. Watch an interview with either Trevor Noah, Jimmy Fallon, or Ellen, etc. Make your own interview “show” mimicking their style.

19. Spanish - Write about 5 things that you want to do in the future using complex sentences (at least 8 words). Ex. Places you want to travel, things you want to accomplish, etc.

Ex. Algún día, quisiera ir a Barcelona para ver el arte de Gaudi. También, este año quiero recibir una A en todas mis clases. Etc.

Frases útiles:

Quiero + AR, ER, IR verb – I want to

...

Quisiera + AR, ER, IR verb – I would like to ...

En el futuro: In the future

Este año: This year El año que viene  
= next year

En # años: In # years

En el año 2030: In 2030

Algún día: Someday

20. Learn 10-20 new vocab words that interest you. Write the word on a Google slide, draw a picture or choose an image to represent the word, and write a sentence using each word. Try the SAT/ACT website to find new vocabulary. Host a Spelling Bee with some friends!

### **High School Science Continuous Learning Projects**

**Directions:** Select 6 tasks, 3 per week, to complete over the next two weeks. Be prepared to discuss your work with your instructor. **MAKE SURE TO ADHERE TO ALL SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS!**

#### **Technology Key:**

**No tech** - Requires no technology

**Medium tech** - Requires at least a cell phone w/ data plan or wifi

**High tech** - Requires an in-home devices such as a laptop/computer w/ wi-fi

\*PDF found in packet

<b>Science Learning Activities April 6th-April 17</b>			
<b>Scientific Inquiry</b>	<p><b>Data Analysis*</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> 1. Check out the graph labeled <u>Graph of the Week November 2019</u> on iPhone Sales and answer the questions. *</p> <p>2. Check out the graph labeled Graph of the Week February 2020 <u>Graph of the Week February 2020</u> about Homeless Populations in a few Major US Cities and answer the questions.</p> <p><b>Tech Required: None</b></p>	<p><b>Data Analysis TOO*</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> 3. Check out the graph labeled <u>Graph of the Week August 2019</u> on Teen Views on Social Media and answer the questions. *</p> <p>4. Check out the graph labeled <u>Graph of the Week February 2020</u> on Female Nasa Astronauts and answer the questions. *</p> <p><b>Tech Required: None</b></p>	<p><b>You Think You're Fast Oldtimer?</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> 5. Grab the form labeled <u>Reaction Time Science: How Fast Are You?</u>, determine who's got the better reaction time. Good. Now design your own method/experiment of determining who has the better reaction time. How do the two methods compare? Be sure to compare the quality of data taken.</p> <p><b>Tech Required: None</b></p>
<b>Life Science</b>	<p><b>Am I Blind or What?*</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> 6. Find the form labeled <u>Test Your Eyes: Blind Spots</u> and test yourself and your family members to determine your blind spots. Compare your results. What were some similarities? What were some differences? Develop an explanation for both.</p>	<p><b>Traits in the Family</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> 7. Grab 10 or more family photos with different members of your family and see which traits are common and which traits seem rare. Based on what you've observed, can you determine which traits are dominant or recessive?</p>	<p><b>My Heart's Racing... Or Not</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> 8. Watch this <u>short video</u> on how to take/calculate heart rate by hand. Once you've learned to take your own resting heart rate, record your measurement to establish your resting heart</p>



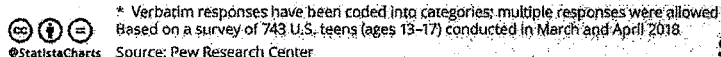
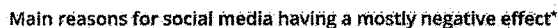
	<p><b>Tech Required: None</b></p>	<p>Record your observations and discuss them with a family member.</p> <p><b>Tech Required: None</b></p>	<p>rate. Now test what happens to your heart rate after taking a 5 minute walk and re-checking your pulse. What differences did you observe? What other activities may affect your heart rate? What conclusions can you draw?</p> <p><b>Tech Required: Medium</b></p>
Physical Science	<p><b>Bringing Balance to the Force</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> 9. Test your knowledge of mass, weight distribution, and balancing! Use this <a href="#">balancing simulation</a> to show how much you know about how each of these affect things.</p> <p><b>Tech Required: High</b></p>	<p><b>CAN You feel the Pressure?*</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> 9. Find the form labeled <b>The Can Crusher</b> and follow the directions to explore how differences in pressure affect an object. What are some real world examples of the phenomenon?</p> <p><b>Tech Required: None</b></p>	<p><b>Balloon Racing*</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> 10. Find the article about making a <b>Experiment: How to Build a Balloon Powered Car</b> and use common household items to make your own. Adding up to 3 extra household items, develop an idea to make the car move faster. Use Claim-Evidence-Reasoning to describe your idea.</p> <p><b>Tech Required: None</b></p>

<b>Environmental, Earth, and Space Science</b>	<p><b>Stranded on the Moon*</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b>  11. They didn't go over this at space camp! Find the form labeled <u>Nasa Exercise: Surviving on the Moon</u> to explore what may or may not be useful while being stranded on the moon.</p> <p>Answers Included! No peeking but compare your responses with theirs after you've finished.</p> <p><b>Tech Required: None</b></p>	<p><b>Why Not a Purple Space Suit?</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b>  13. Watch this <u>video</u> on why Astronauts wear white Space Suits. Can you think of any other aspects of space travel that may be affected by color?</p> <p><b>Tech Required: Medium</b></p>	<p><b>Save ME!!! I'm Stuck in BIOME!!!*</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b>  14. Research the major biomes of the world: tropical rainforests, temperate rainforests, boreal forest, desert, tundra, grasslands, savanna and freshwater. (You can start <u>here</u>.) Based on what you know about viral infections like the Flu, which biome would be the best to avoid catching and spreading the disease?</p> <p><b>Tech Required: None-Medium</b></p>
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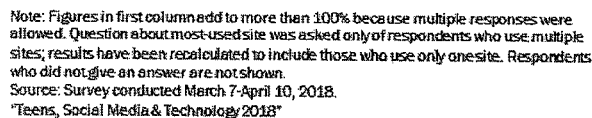
**August \_\_\_\_\_, 2019**

- What is the topic of the graphs?
- What does the x-axis represent? What does the y-axis represent?
- What are some observations that you can make based on the graphs?
- What do you foresee happening in the next 10 years?

% of U.S. teens saying social media has a mostly positive/negative effect on people their age

statista 

% of U.S. teens who...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER

5

# NASA Exercise: Survival on the Moon

## Scenario:

You are a member of a space crew originally scheduled to rendezvous with a mother ship on the lighted surface of the moon. However, due to mechanical difficulties, your ship was forced to land at a spot some 200 miles from the rendezvous point. During reentry and landing, much of the equipment aboard was damaged and, since survival depends on reaching the mother ship, the most critical items available must be chosen for the 200-mile trip. Below are listed the 15 items left intact and undamaged after landing. Your task is to rank order them in terms of their importance for your crew in allowing them to reach the rendezvous point. Place the number **1** by the most important item, the number **2** by the second most important, and so on through number **15** for the least important.

## Your Ranking

## NASA Ranking

- \_\_\_\_\_ Box of matches \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Food concentrate \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 50 feet of nylon rope \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parachute silk \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Portable heating unit \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two .45 caliber pistols \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ One case of dehydrated milk \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two 100 lb. tanks of oxygen \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stellar map \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Self-inflating life raft \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Magnetic compass \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20 liters of water \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Signal flares \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ First aid kit, including injection needle \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Solar-powered FM receiver-transmitter \_\_\_\_\_

**November \_\_\_\_\_, 2019**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Analyze the graphs below and write a reflection on what you think the graphs are communicating to you. To guide you with your response, start with some observations.

- What are the topics of the graphs?
- What quantities are being compared? (If there are x- and y- axes, what do they represent?)
- What are some observations that you can make based on the graphs?
- What do you foresee happening in the next 10 years?

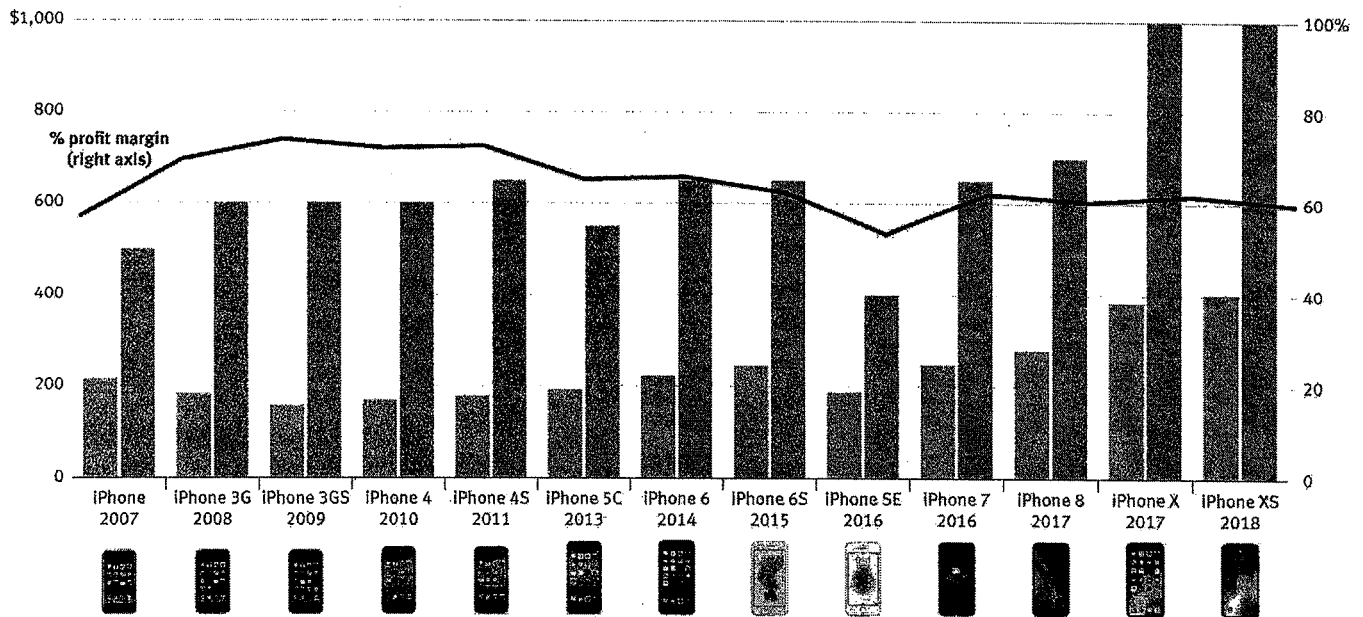
Questions to ask when reading graphs:

- Is there an upward or downward trend?
- Are there any sudden spikes in the graph?
- What is being compared in the graph?
- What prediction can I make for the future?
- What inferences can I make about the graph?

## The Cost of iPhones

While the prices of iPhones have soared, Apple's profit margins from the devices haven't followed.

Left axis: ■ Bill of materials ■ Retail cost



Sources: Bill of Materials from TechInsights; Apple product announcements

[illegible]



## Graph of the Week

February \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Analyze the graphs below and write a reflection on what you think the graphs are communicating to you. To guide you with your response, start with some observations.

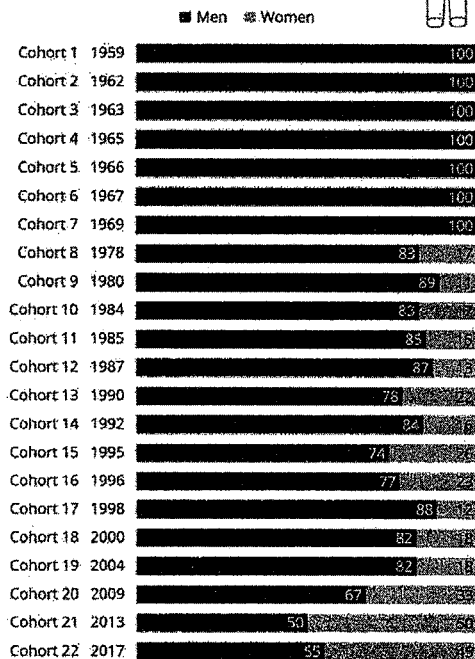
- What are the topics of the graphs?
- What quantities are being compared? (If there are x- and y- axes, what do they represent?)
- What are some observations that you can make based on the graphs?
- What do you foresee happening in the next 10 years?

### Questions to ask when reading graphs:

- Is there an upward or downward trend?
- Are there any sudden spikes in the graph?
- What is being compared in the graph?
- What prediction can I make for the future?
- What inferences can I make about the graph?

### Number of Female NASA Astronauts Rises

Percent of men and women graduating from NASA astronaut class, by cohort\*



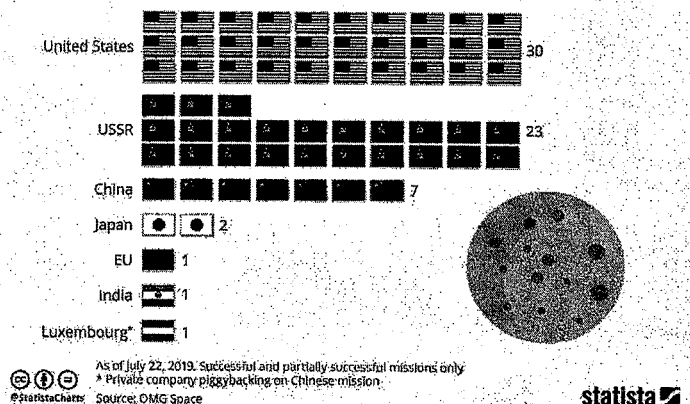
\* listed date= date of selection  
Sources: NASA Astronaut Fact Book, Collect Space



statista

### Which Countries Have Been to the Moon?

Countries which have landed on or orbited the moon, by number of missions



## Graph of the Week

February \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Analyze the graphs below and write a reflection on what you think the graphs are communicating to you. To guide you with your response, start with some observations.

- What is the topic of the graph?
- What quantities are being compared? (If there are x- and y- axes, what do they represent?)
- What are some observations that you can make based on the graphs?
- What do you foresee happening in this data 10 years from now?

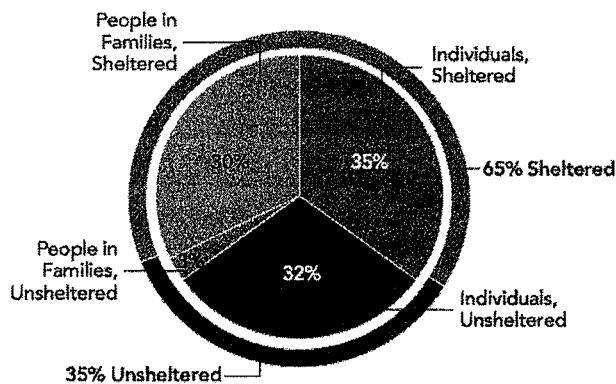
### Questions to ask when reading graphs:

- Is there an upward or downward trend?
- Are there any sudden spikes in the graph?
- What is being compared in the graph?
- What prediction can I make for the future?
- What inferences can I make about the graph?



### Percent of Homeless People

By Household Type and Sheltered Status, 2017



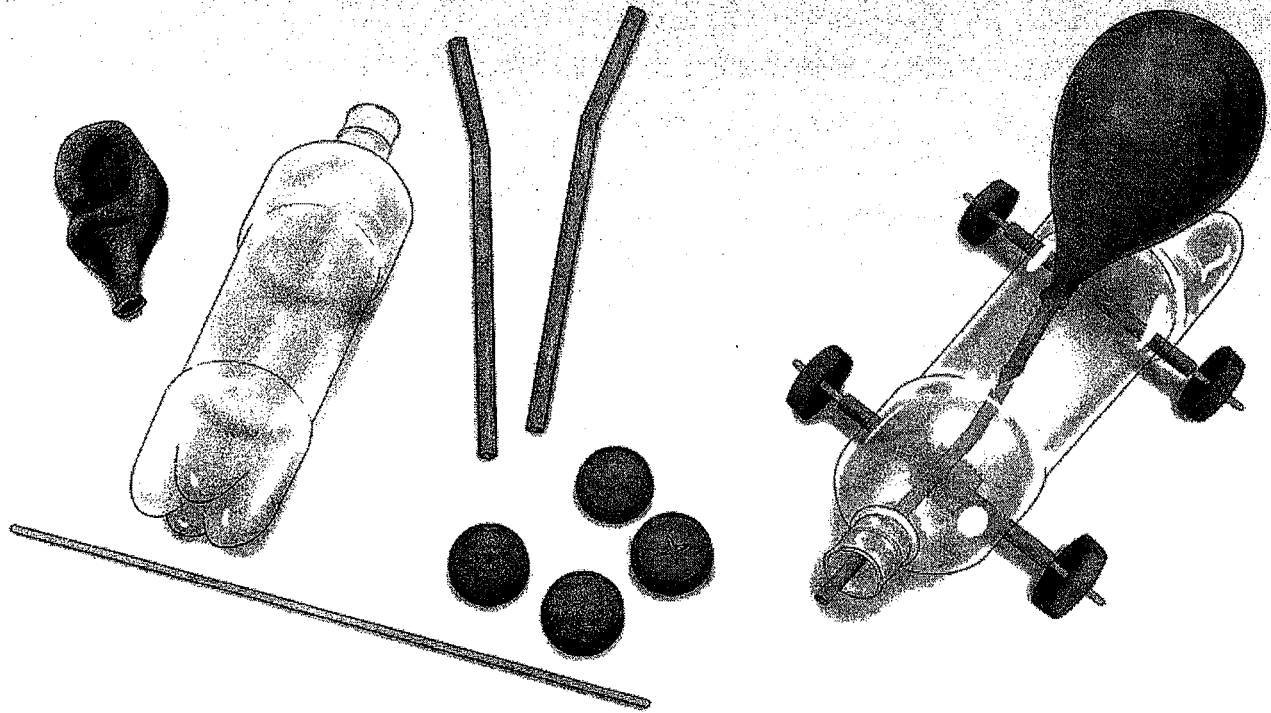


# Experiment: How to build a balloon-powered car

By Ben Finio, Scientific American on 03.31.20

Word Count **692**

Level **MAX**



Use these items to build a small car that is powered by the kinetic energy of a balloon. Newsela staff

Turn a pile of trash into a toy car — and watch it go! In this activity you will learn some physics concepts and use recycled materials to build a toy car that is propelled by a balloon. You can even find a friend, build two cars and race them against each other. Whose car will go the fastest?

## Materials

Plastic bottle

Four plastic bottle caps

Wooden skewer

Two straws

Balloon

Tape

Scissors or sharp knife (Have an adult use or supervise your use of this tool.)

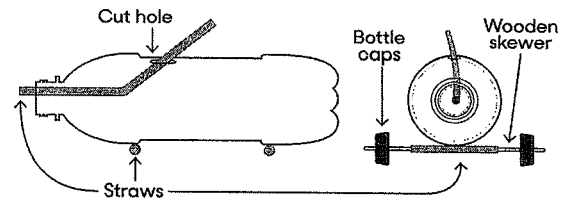
An adult helper

### Preparation

1. Cut one of the straws in half.
2. Tape both pieces of the straw to one side of the water bottle.
3. Cut the wooden skewer in half and push each piece through one of the straws. These will form your axles. (Have an adult help.)
4. Have an adult help use the scissors to poke a "+"-shaped hole directly in the center of each plastic bottle cap.
5. Press each bottle cap onto the ends of the wooden skewers. These will form your wheels.

### Procedure

1. Put your car down on a flat surface and give it a good push. Make sure the car rolls easily and coasts for a bit before stopping. If your car gets stuck or does not roll smoothly make sure: your axles are parallel to each other; the hole in each bottle cap is centered; and the straws are securely taped to the water bottle and do not wobble. You can add some glue if tape is not sufficient.
2. Tape the neck of the balloon around one end of the other straw. Wrap the tape very tightly so the connection is airtight.
3. Cut a small hole in the top of the water bottle, just big enough to push the straw through.
4. Push the free end of the straw through the hole and out the mouth of the bottle.
5. Use tape to secure the straw to the bottle.
6. Blow through the straw to inflate the balloon, then put your finger over the tip of the straw to trap the air. What do you think will happen when you put the car down and release your finger?
7. Put the car down on a flat surface and release your finger. What happens?



See what adjustments you can do to make the car go farther. What happens if you inflate the balloon more? What happens if you adjust the direction the straw is aimed? Does it work best if the straw is aimed straight back?

**Extra:** There are many different ways to build a balloon car. Turn this into an engineering design project and try building your car with different materials. For example: What happens if you use a cardboard box instead of a plastic bottle for the body? What happens if you use different diameter straws? What about different materials for the wheels and axles? Get some friends and try building different cars and racing them against one another. What materials work the best?

### Observations And Results

When you inflate a balloon and let it go, it zips randomly around the room. When you tape the balloon to a straw and attach it to the body of your car, however, you can control the direction of the escaping air. When the end of the straw is aimed backward, the air pushes your car forward, as described by Newton's third law of motion. Your design will be most efficient if the straw is pointed straight back and not downward or to the side. The more you inflate the balloon the more potential energy it stores, which in turn is converted to more kinetic energy, according to the law of conservation of energy — so the car will go faster.

# The Can Crusher

The can crusher experiment demonstrates Charles's Law, the basic principle that gases expand when heated and contract when cooled.

Charles Law – the volume of a gas is directly proportional to its temperature

You will need a

small soda can

skillet pan

stove top

tongs

bowl with ice and water

1. fill the can with about half an ounce of water.
2. Boil the can in a pan of water for about a minute, and you will notice vapor steaming from the opening of the soda can.
3. Using tongs, grab the can and place it upside down (open end) in a bowl of cold water.

Analyze

1. How did the temperature inside the can change when you heated the can? How did it change when you put it into the cold water?
2. What happened to the PRESSURE INSIDE the can when the can was put into cold water?
3. Did the air pressure OUTSIDE the can change during the experiment?
4. Why did the can crush seemingly on its own?

# Test Your Eyes!

## Blind Spots

### How do you test for blind spots?

Close your left eye and stare at the cross mark on the other side of this page with your right eye. Off to the right you should be able to see the spot. Don't look directly at it; just notice that it is there, off to the right. If it's not, move farther away. You should be able to see the dot if you are a couple of feet away.

Now slowly move toward the piece of paper while still looking at the cross mark. When you're approximately a foot away from the paper, the spot will disappear. As you move closer, it will reappear.

### Why does this happen?

The point where your optic nerves converge to exit the eye and into the brain is known as the optic disc. This area of the eye has no light-sensitive cells to detect light rays. This results in a break in the visual field known as your "blind spot."

When the cross mark disappears, you instead "see" a continuous white field. This is not actually the case. Here, you see something the brain is actually making up, since the eye isn't actually sending any information back via the optic nerve.

### Why does this matter?

Vision scientists study our blind spots and what effects they have on vision. Their research reveals the brain's actions. Eye and vision scientists aim to understand whether the brain is actually filling in missing information or simply ignoring things about which it has no information?

### Find out more at **ARVO.org/ILLUSIONS**

Text and images adapted from: <https://serendipstudio.org/bb/blindspot1.html>



ARVO is the largest and most respected eye and vision research organization in the world, with nearly 12,000 members from more than 80 countries. Our mission is to advance research worldwide into understanding the visual system and into preventing, treating and curing its disorders. This is done through meetings, education, partnerships, fellowships and programs that drive collaboration, innovation and the advancement of eye and vision science with a goal of saving sight. Learn more at [ARVO.org](https://arvo.org).



**Find your blind spots!**

# Reaction Time Science: How Fast Are You?

Does your child think he has good reflexes? Now's his chance to prove it! Here's a quick and simple experiment that gauges your child's reaction time. All you need is a yardstick, a friend, and some paper. Not only will your child be making some personal revelations about the way his body works, but he'll also be using math and the scientific method while he's at it!

## What You Need:

- Yardstick
- At least two willing participants
- Paper and pen for recording results
- Markers and graph paper (optional)

## What You Do:

1. Before you start, be sure your child knows the purpose of this experiment is to measure how long it takes his brain to process and act on a verbal command.
2. Start by holding the yardstick upright a few feet off the ground.
3. Have your child place his fingers and thumb around the sides of the yardstick. Ask him to close his eyes so that he relies purely by command and not by visual cues.
4. Say 'Go!' as you drop the yard stick. Your child should react by closing his fingers on the yardstick at the same time to catch it. To get an accurate measurement, make sure his fingers always start at the bottom of the yardstick.
5. After he catches the yard stick, encourage him to measure how many inches it fell before he caught it. Use the conversion chart below to get his reaction time. Remember to record the results.
6. To ensure the accuracy of your scientific trial, be sure to perform this test more than once. Afterward, look at the results and discuss with your child why his reaction times might vary from trial to trial.



You can extend this activity by changing different variables. For instance: is your child's reaction time better when his eyes are open? Why or why not? You can also use graph paper and markers to record the reaction times of other family members and friends. Make it a contest and compare who has the best reflexes!

**Inches to Seconds Conversion Table**

INCHES	SECONDS
6	0.18
9	0.22
12	0.25
15	0.28
18	0.31
21	0.33
24	0.35

# Answers

Item	Ranking	NASA's Reasoning
Box of matches	15	Virtually worthless -- there's no oxygen on the moon to sustain combustion
Food concentrate	4	Efficient means of supplying energy requirements
50 feet of nylon rope	6	Useful in scaling cliffs and tying injured together
Parachute silk	8	Protection from the sun's rays
Portable heating unit	13	Not needed unless on the dark side
Two .45 calibre pistols	11	Possible means of self-propulsion
One case of dehydrated milk	12	Bulkier duplication of food concentrate
Two 100 lb. tanks of oxygen	1	Most pressing survival need (weight is not a factor since gravity is one-sixth of the Earth's -- each tank would weigh only about 17 lbs. on the moon)
Stellar map	3	Primary means of navigation - star patterns appear essentially identical on the moon as on Earth
Self-inflating life raft	9	CO <sub>2</sub> bottle in military raft may be used for propulsion
Magnetic compass	14	The magnetic field on the moon is not polarized, so it's worthless for navigation
20 litres of water	2	Needed for replacement of tremendous liquid loss on the light side
Signal flares	10	Use as distress signal when the mother ship is sighted
First aid kit, including injection needle	7	Needles connected to vials of vitamins, medicines, etc. will fit special aperture in NASA space suit
Solar-powered FM receiver-transmitter	5	For communication with mother ship (but FM requires line-of-sight transmission and can only be used over short ranges)



**Scoring:**

For each item, mark the number of points that your score differs from the NASA ranking, then add up all the points. Disregard plus or minus differences. The lower the total, the better your score.

**0 - 25 excellent**

**26 - 32 good**

**33 - 45 average**

**46 - 55 fair**

**56 - 70 poor -- suggests use of Earth-bound logic**

**71 - 112 very poor – you're one of the casualties of the space program!**

*... published in the July 1999 issue of the NightTimes*

### ***Algebra I Continuous Learning Projects***

1. Look around your home and surrounding areas. Take pictures that represent the different types of slope. Combine those pictures into a collage. Be sure to label the types of slope represented.
2. Take four bags of M&M's or skittles. For each bag make a chart representing the number of pieces of each color. Now utilizing the information in the chart find the mean, median, mode, and range for each color.
3. Practice your plotting skills to make a picture (Attachment #1A/#1B--Plotting Points on Coordinate Plane)
4. Find the cost of movie tickets at 5 different cities around the country. Be sure to get the price for adults, children, matinee, and regular showings.
  - a. You have \$100 dollars. In which city can you take the most adults and children to a matinee if there are two children for each adult?
  - b. Which city has the best deal for a group of 2 adults and 3 children for matinee? Regular?
5. Create a song/jingle that will remind your classmates of how to find the slope and y-intercept of a line. Be sure to make a catchy chorus!!! Record and send to your teacher.

### ***Geometry Continuous Learning Projects***

1. Pick a room of your home. Measure each piece of furniture in that room and the floor space and walls. Now recreate the room on a separate sheet of paper utilizing scaling. Be sure to label your pieces and to tell the scaling factor utilized
2. Create a crossword puzzle utilizing Geometric terms (See Attachment #2--Vocabulary List). Be sure to give good but challenging clues. Send it to a couple of friends and have them try to solve.
3. Create artwork using parallel and perpendicular lines along with a variety of shapes. Call or facetime a friend and explain to them how to make an exact "copy" without them seeing your original.
4. Geometry is all around us. Take a 20 minute walk and write down all the geometric shapes you see.
5. Be a graphic designer (Attachment #3---CARE-Graphic Design)

### ***Algebra 2 Continuous Learning Projects***

1. Exponential Law Math Project (Attachment #4)
2. Create a catapult utilizing items you have around your home. Fling a small object (coin, gummy bear, etc). Utilizing a coordinate plane, graph the path the object takes. Compare and contrast utilizing different items.
3. Quadratic Maze Activity (Attachment #5--Two mazes of quadratic equations)
4. Completing the square puzzle. (Attachment #6--Completing the square puzzle)

- a. Cut out the pieces
  - b. Solve the equation utilizing completing the square
  - c. Match up the corresponding equation to the corresponding solutions
  - d. Contact your teacher to see if you have the right combination.
  - e. Check with a friend to see if they had the same combination.
5. Research the use of complex numbers in daily life. Summarize your findings.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Solve the maze by choosing the answers to each equation by using the quadratic formula. Insert a shape (arrow) to show how you would solve the maze.

**START**

Version 1

$$x^2 + 4x + 4 = 0$$

4

$$x^2 - 2x - 15 = 0$$

5, -3

$$x^2 - 10x + 16 = 0$$

8, 2

$$x^2 - 8x = -10$$

-2

2, 10

2.27, -5.27

6.45, 1.55

$$x^2 - 7x - 8 = 0$$

2.54, -0.79

$$x^2 - 12x + 20 = 0$$

2, -10

$$x^2 + 3x = 12$$

$5\frac{3}{5}$ ,  $-\frac{3}{5}$

$$10x^2 - 31x + 15 = 0$$

-2.54, 0.79

-2, -10

2.27, -5.27

$2\frac{1}{5}$ ,  $\frac{3}{5}$

$$5x^2 + 5 = -13x$$

$\frac{1}{2}$ , 6

$$2x^2 + 11x - 6 = 0$$

5.62, 3.38

$$x^2 - 9x = -19$$

$-\frac{2}{5}$

$$x^2 - 9x + 21 = 0$$

-0.47, -2.13

$\frac{1}{2}$ , -6

-5.62, 3.38

5.1, 2

$$2x^2 - 11x + 10 = 0$$

-1.15, -4.35

$$9x^2 + 24x = -16$$

$-\frac{4}{3}$

$$3x^2 - x = 8$$

1.81, -1.47

**FINISH**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Solve the maze by choosing the answers to each equation by using the quadratic formula. Insert a shape (arrow) to show how you would solve the maze.

**START**

**Version 2**

$$4x^2 + 5x - 6 = 0$$

$$-\frac{3}{4}, 2$$

$$x^2 + 16 = 0$$

$$4, -4$$

$$6x^2 - 12x + 1 = 0$$

$$1.91, 0.09$$

$$5x^2 - 8x = 6$$

$$\frac{3}{4}, -2$$

$$16$$

$$\frac{1}{2}, -2$$

$$2.16, -0.56$$

$$5x^2 + 21x = -18$$

$$-\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}$$

$$81x^2 = 9$$

$$9, 9$$

$$8x^2 + 12x = 8$$

$$-\frac{1}{2}, 2$$

$$4x^2 = -16x - 16$$

$$\frac{5}{6}, -3$$

$$9, -9$$

$$3$$

$$-2$$

$$10x^2 = -7x + 6$$

$$\frac{6}{5}, -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$-3x^2 = 8x - 12$$

$$\frac{1}{2}$$

$$12x - 18 = 2x^2$$

$$-3, 3$$

$$2x^2 - 8x = 12$$

$$\frac{5}{6}, \frac{1}{2}$$

$$2, -5$$

$$-6.19, -8.1$$

$$5.16, -1.16$$

$$3x^2 - 24x + 36 = 0$$

$$6, 2$$

$$x^2 - 3x = 10$$

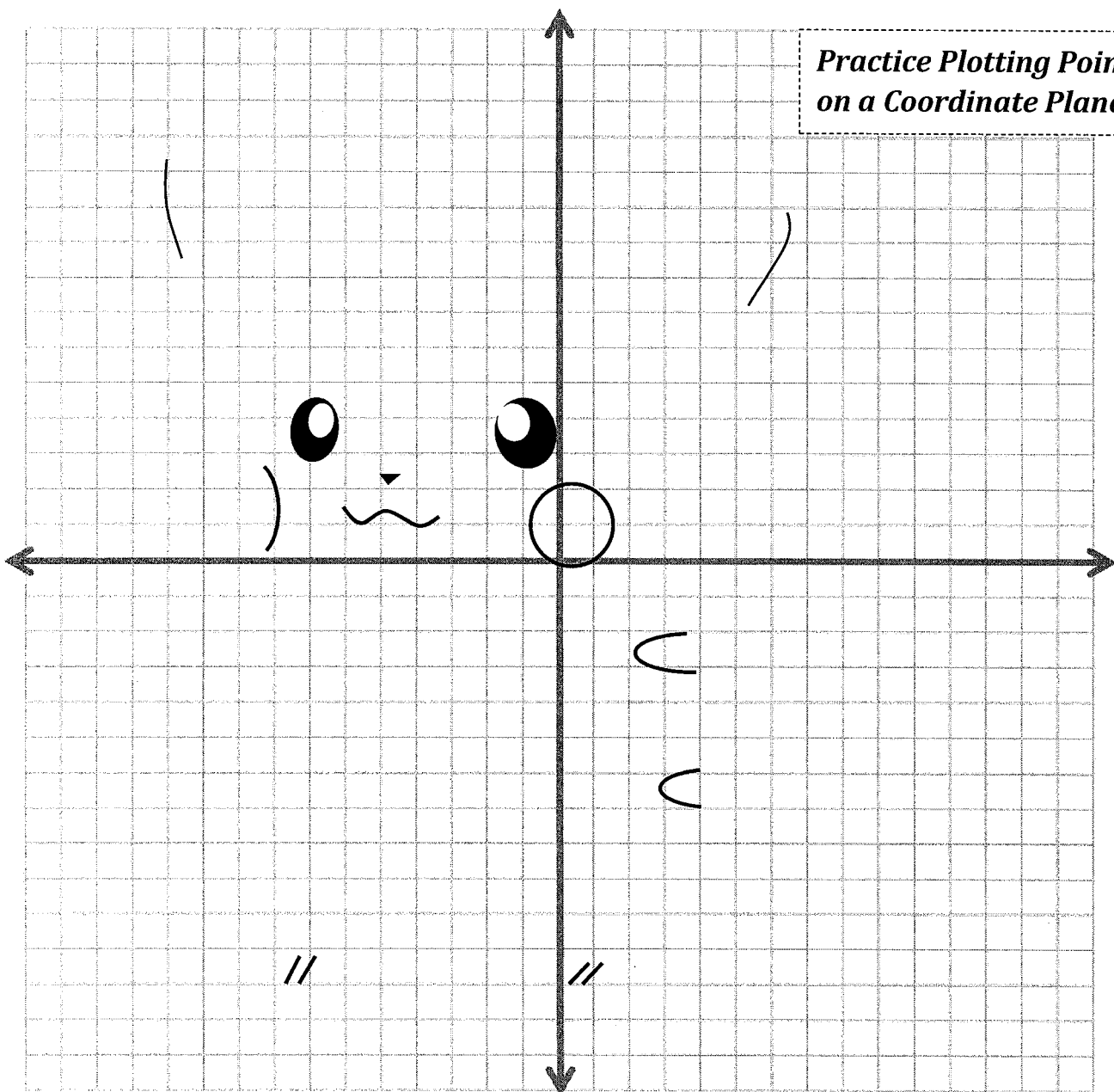
$$5, -2$$

$$x^2 = -7x - 5$$

$$.81, 6.19$$

**FINISH**

**Practice Plotting Points  
on a Coordinate Plane**



**Graph these points in order to create the picture of a much-beloved fictional character.**

SHAPE 1:

(-7, -1)  
(-8, -2)  
(-8, -5)  
(-6, -7)  
(-5, -6)  
(-5, -4)  
(-6, -3)

STOP

SHAPE 2:

(2, -4)  
(1, -6)  
(-1, -7)  
(-2, -6)  
(-2, -4)  
(-1, -2)

STOP

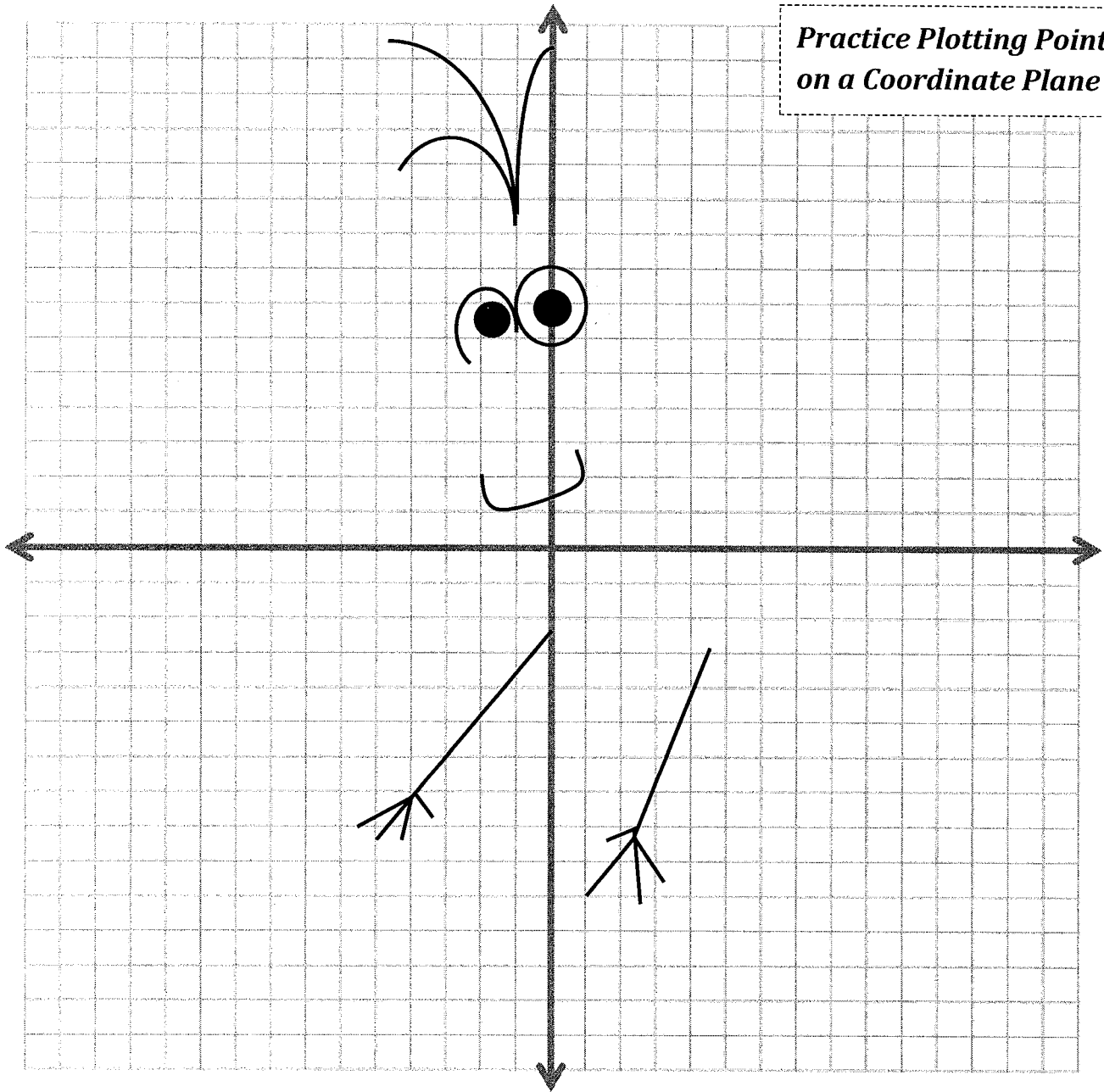
SHAPE 3:

(4, -7) (7, -5)  
(6, -6) (8, -6)  
(5, -4) (4, -8)  
(7, -3) STOP  
(6, -1)  
(8, 0)  
(5, 4)  
(12, 8)  
(14, 3)  
(9, 1)  
(10, -1)  
(8, -2)  
(9, -4)

SHAPE 4:

(-6, -2) (-1, 8) (1, -12)  
(-9, 1) (0, 7) (0, -12)  
(-9, 2) (3, 9) (1, -11)  
(-8, 3) (7, 10) (-5, -11)  
(-8, 5) (9, 10) (-7, -12)  
(-7, 6) (7, 8) (-8, -12)  
(-9, 7) (5, 7) (-7, -10)  
(-12, 10) (2, 6) (-8, -9)  
(-13, 12) (3, 3) (-8, -8)  
(-10, 11) (3, 1) (-7, -6)  
(-7, 9) (4, -4) STOP  
(-6, 7) (4, -9)  
(-4, 8) (3, -11)

**Practice Plotting Points  
on a Coordinate Plane**



**Graph these points in order to create the picture of a much-beloved fictional character.**

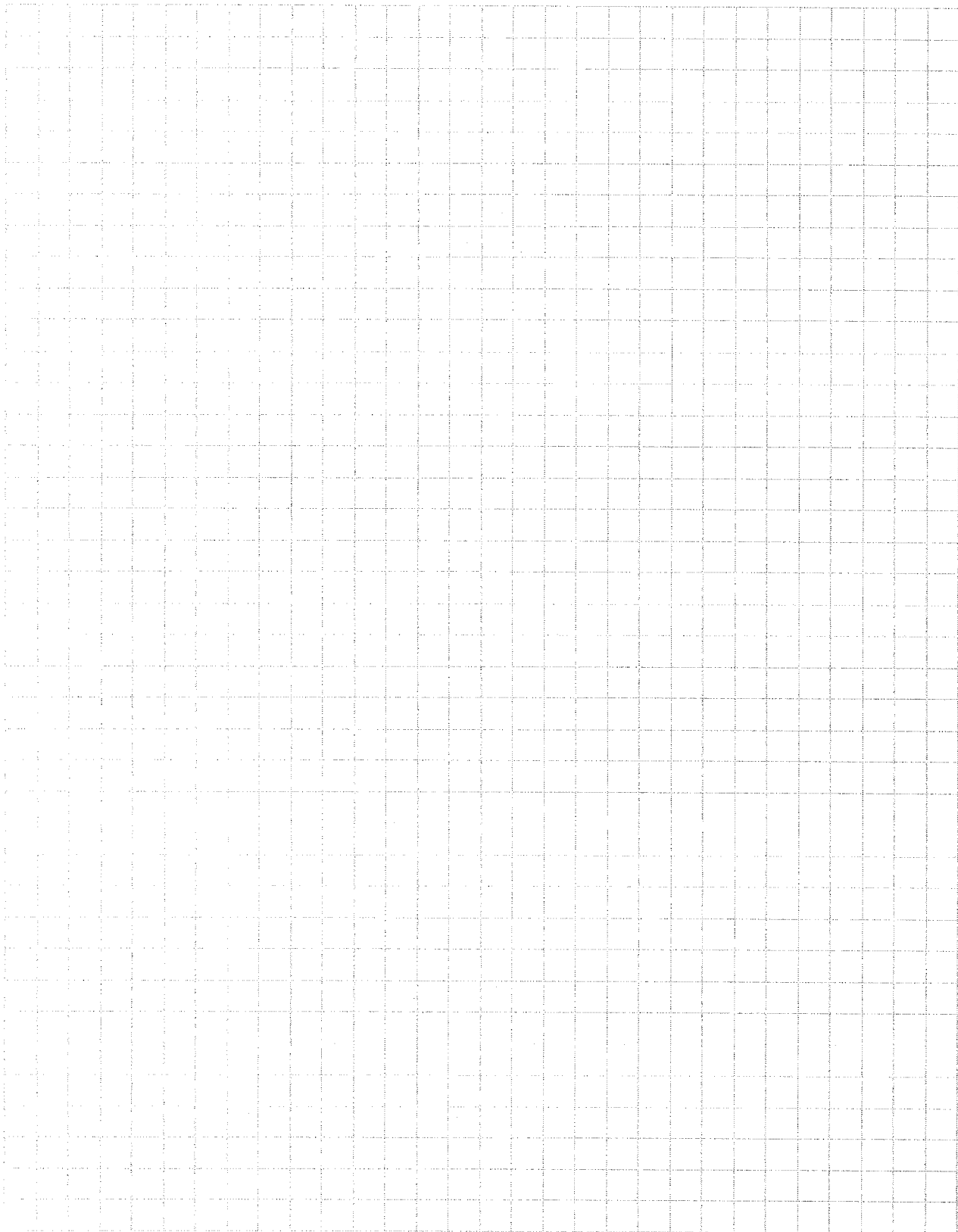
Shape 1:	Shape 2:	Shape 3:	Shape 4:	Shape 5:
(5, -6)	(-2, -10) (0, -10)	(0, 5)	(-3, -8)	(-3, 2) (-3, 2)
(6, -4)	(-2, -9) (2, -9)	(-1, 6)	(-2, -6)	(0, -1) (0, 2)
(5, -2)	(-3, -8) (4, -10)	(-2, 6)	(0, -4)	(2, -2) (2, 4)
(4, -1)	(-5, -8) (4, -11)	(-3, 3)	(3, -6)	(4, -1) (3, 6)
(2, -2)	(-6, -9) (3, -13)	(0, 5)	(5, -6)	(4, 6) (2, 1)
(0, -1)	(-6, -11) (1, -13)	STOP	(7, -7)	(0, 10) (1, 0)
(0, -4)	(-5, -12) (0, -12)		(7, -9)	(-3, 8) (0, 0)
STOP	(-2, -11) (0, -11)		(6, -11)	(-3, 6) (-1, 1)
	(-2, -10) STOP		(4, -11)	(-4, 5) STOP
	(0, -11)		STOP	(-4, 4)

Choose ***at least*** 20 words from the following vocabulary list for your Crossword Puzzle. You must choose ***at least 3*** from each topic as listed below.

<b><u>Reasoning</u></b> Biconditional Conditional statement Conjecture Contrapositive Converse Counterexample Deductive reasoning Inductive reasoning Inverse Postulate Theorem	<b><u>Language of Geometry</u></b> Angle Collinear points Congruent Coplanar points Intersecting lines Line Opposite rays Parallel lines Perpendicular Plane Point Ray Segment	<b><u>Angles</u></b> Acute angle Adjacent angles Alternate exterior angles Alternate interior angles Complementary angles Consecutive angles Corresponding angles Linear pair Obtuse angle Right angle Same-side interior angles Straight angle Supplementary angles Transversal Vertical angles
<b><u>Triangles</u></b> Altitude Angle bisector Angle of depression Angle of elevation Centroid Equilateral triangle Incenter Isosceles triangle Median Midsegment Orthocenter Perpendicular bisector Scalene triangle Similarity	<b><u>Polygons</u></b> Apothem Area Decagon Dodecagon Heptagon Hexagon Isosceles trapezoid Kite Nonagon Octagon Parallelogram Pentagon Quadrilateral Rectangle Regular polygon Rhombus Right trapezoid Square Trapezoid	<b><u>Postulates &amp; Theorems</u></b> Polygon Interior Angle Sum Theorem Polygon Exterior Angle Sum Theorem Pythagorean Theorem Distance Formula Midpoint Perimeter Triangle Inequality Theorem Circumference Area



# Crossword Puzzle



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## CARE – Points, Lines and Angle Project: Graphic Design

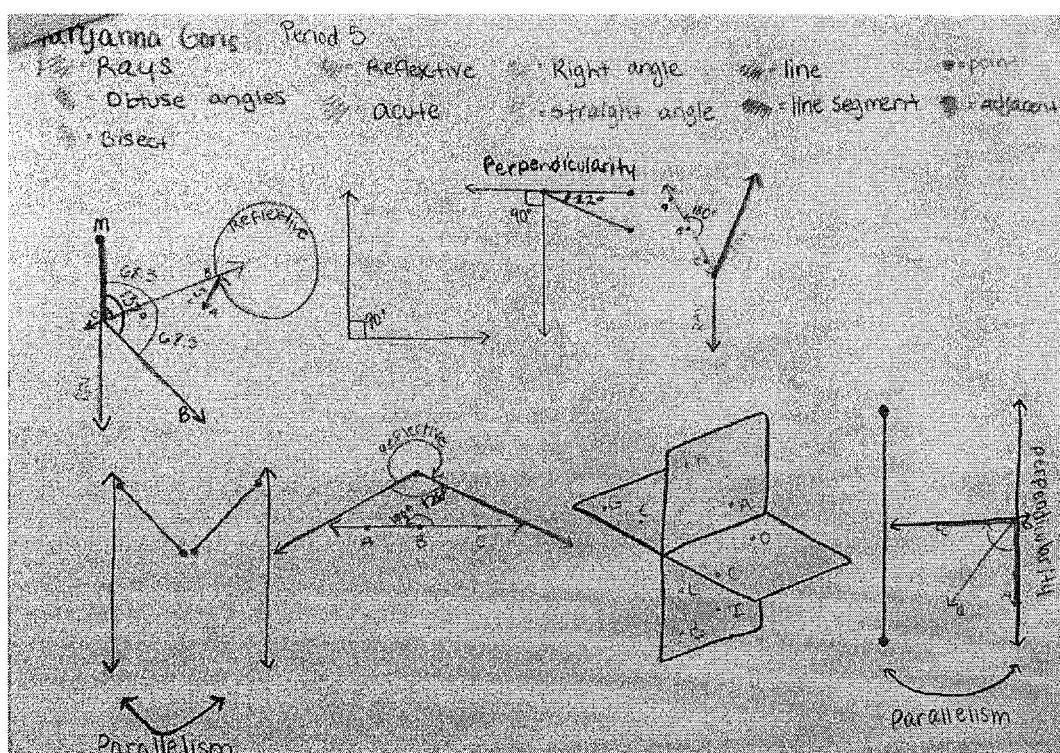
You are the graphic designer at my start-up company: **KOLTYMATH** – an educational website to help students with getting an A in their Geometry classes. We are launching our company website and each employee must have a **logo** to go with their name. As a Geometry resource, the logo must echo the company mission – to educate the world in the ways of all things Geometry. As president and CEO, I have developed a list of requirements that I need satisfied with each employee's unique logo, in addition to it being aesthetically pleasing. The logo of your name/nickname (5 letters minimum) must be comprised of the building blocks of Geometry: points, lines, planes, and angles with accurate measurements (using a protractor).

You will include a **clear guide** for me to find the evidence of each requirement being met: i.e. a key, labels, or color coding.

### Logo Requirements:

- Angles: *labeled with accurate measurements*
    - 2 Obtuse Angles
    - 2 Acute Angles
    - 2 Right Angles
    - 2 Straight Angles
    - 2 Reflexive Angles
  - 3 Line Segments
  - 3 Rays
- 2 Lines
  - 1 Plane
  - 1 Point
  - 2 instances of parallelism (parallel lines)
  - 2 instances of perpendicularity (perpendicular lines)
  - 1 pair of adjacent angles
  - A line segment being bisected
  - An angle being bisected

**See the example below to get an idea of what is being asked:**



# Algebra 2 Distance Learning Activity: Exponents

## Exponent Laws Math Project

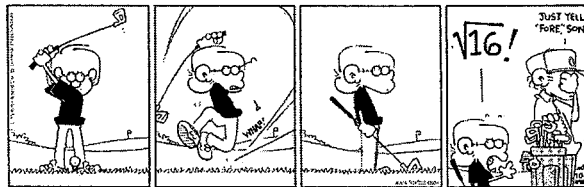
Prepare a project, using one of the formats outlined below, that describes the exponent laws covered in class.

Here is the **list of requirements** and what needs to be communicated in your final product:

- A description of the exponent laws for **multiplying** and **dividing** powers with the same base
  - Provide an example of each and a detailed solution.
- A description of the **power of a power law**
  - Provide an example and a detailed solution.
- A description of the **negative** and **zero** exponent laws
  - Provide an example of each and a detailed solution.
- Examples of each exponent law must be original (must not include examples from our class notes or examples found in the textbook).

You may choose **any** of the following formats:

### 1) Create a comic strip:



- The comic strip must contain:
  - a minimum of 8 panels (the cartoon above contains only 4 panels)
  - clearly drawn characters
  - element(s) of humor, irony, drama, ...

### 2) Create a song:

- The song must contain:
  - 1 page of lyrics (double spaced)
  - 2 – 5 minute presentation (recorded)
  - A parody of an existing song or an original work
  - An professional delivery (dramatic, humorous, ...)

### 3) Create a video:

- This video must contain:
  - A script
  - 2 – 5 minute presentation (recorded)
  - A parody of an existing tv/film production or an original work
  - A professional delivery (dramatic, humorous, informative, ...)

### 4) Create a skit:

- The skit must contain:
  - A script
  - Between 2 – 5 minutes of demonstration time(record)
  - A physical model, prop, object, or product
  - A professional delivery (dramatic, humorous, informative, ...)

### 5) Create a brochure OR a poster:

- This must contain:
  - Images/pictures
  - A professional appearance

**6) Create a website OR a PowerPoint presentation:**

- This must contain:
  - Images/pictures
  - A professional appearance

Evaluate your projects on how complete and thorough your product is, the quality of your project, the use of your own words, the visual impact of your final product, and how well you communicate your knowledge. Please refer to the detailed scoring rubric below for guidance.

**Exponent Laws Project Guidance Rubric**

Report Component	Criteria	Thumbs up or down
Math Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The student provides a detailed description of the exponent laws for negative and zero exponents, multiplying and dividing powers with the same base as well as the power to a power law.</li></ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The student has provided a thoughtful example of each exponent law and a clear and thorough solution for each.</li></ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The examples of each exponent law are original.</li></ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Student shows thorough understanding of the exponent laws with a high degree of effectiveness.</li></ul>	
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Creative presentation of ideas</li></ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Descriptions of the 5 exponent laws are in the students own words.</li></ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Clear communication of ideas</li></ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All required elements are present including additional elements that add to the project (e.g. many graphics are included and are all relevant to the material being presented, etc.).</li></ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Spelling and grammar</li><li>Neat, organized and professional presentation</li></ul>	

$x^2 - x = -12$ $x^2 = 8x + 9$ <b>A</b> $6 = x^2 - x$ $x = 0, -14$	$x^2 + 24x = 0$ $x = -1, 9$ <b>H</b> $x^2 = 0x + 24$ $x = -12, 2$	$x = -3, 7$ $x = -5, -2$ <b>I</b> $x^2 + 6x = 16$ $9 = x^2 - 6x$
$x^2 = -14x$ $x = -4, 11$ <b>E</b> $0x = 2 + x^2 - 14x$ $x = 3, 5$	$x^2 - 24 = -10x$ $x = 2, 6$ <b>B</b> $9 - 7x = x^2$ $x^2 - 2x - 35 = 0$	$x = -8, 2$ $x^2 + 42 = -13x$ <b>G</b> $x = -20, 2$ $87 = 4 + x^2 - 13x$
$0 = x^2 - 8x + 15$ $x = -3, 10$ <b>D</b> $2 - 8x = x^2$ $x = -3, 4$	$x = -5, 7$ $x^2 + 7x - 2 = -18$ <b>C</b> $0x = x^2 - 18$ $x = -12, 0$	$0 = x^2 + 18x - 40$ $x = -5, 6$ <b>F</b> $x^2 - 4x - 21 = 0$ $-2x^2 + 14x + 60 = 0$

# Completing the Square Puzzle

## ***High School Social Studies Continuing Learning Projects***

1. Write down a memory you have that involves other people. Write it with as much detail as possible. Ask another person who was there to give you their account of the memory (while practicing social distancing protocol). Compare your account with theirs. Were they similar? Were there differences?
2. Write your autobiography from birth to now. Include a timeline of the most important events in your life so far.
3. Take this [political ideology survey](#). Read about current and former candidates for the 2020 presidential election [here](#). Which (if any) of the candidates align most closely with your political ideology?
4. Create a monument for the Coronavirus pandemic. Include symbolism that represents your experiences. Create a model of the monument using materials from your home or outside. Write an overview of your monument, including explanations for the symbols you used.
5. Create a historic record of your experience with the Coronavirus pandemic by doing one of the following:
  - a. Keep a journal of your experiences over the next two weeks.
  - b. Create a piece of art that represents your experiences.
  - c. Write a letter to a high school student explaining what it is like living through the pandemic.
  - d. Create oral history by interviewing someone else about their experiences, recording the interview, or taking notes. Be sure to follow social distancing protocol.
6. Create a map, graph, or chart showing the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic over time. Include dates, number of people with the virus, number of deaths, and any other important information.
7. Compare the Coronavirus pandemic to the Black Death or the Flu Pandemic of 1918. Find the past pandemics resources [here](#).
8. Create a social media account for a historical figure. Include a profile picture and any other pictures your character might include on his/her page. Include "about" information, likes and dislikes, and at least 3 posts from that character. Keep it historically accurate!
9. You are the owner of a time travel agency. Create a travel brochure persuading people to visit an event or era in history. What sights will they see? What activities will they participate in? Who might they meet?
10. Watch [CNN 10](#) to keep up with current events.
11. Use [Google Earth](#) to visit historical monuments.
12. Write an acrostic poem or "I Am" poem about a historical figure or event.
  - a. Directions for writing an acrostic poem:
    - i. Decide on your topic
    - ii. Write your word down the page vertically
    - iii. Brainstorm words or phrases that describe your idea.

- iv. Place your brainstormed words or phrases on the lines that begin with the same letters.
- v. Fill in the rest of the lines.
- b. Directions for writing an "I Am" poem:

- i. FIRST STANZA

I am (2 special characteristics you have)  
I hear (an imaginary sound)  
I see (an imaginary sight)  
I feel (a feeling about something imaginary)  
I touch (an imaginary touch)  
I worry (something that bothers you)  
I cry (something that makes you sad)  
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

SECOND STANZA

I understand (something that is true)  
I say (something you believe in)  
I dream (something you dream about)  
I try (something you really make an effort about)  
I hope (something you actually hope for)  
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

# The 1918 flu pandemic that killed millions

By History.com, adapted by Newsela staff on 12.18.17

Word Count 908

Level 1020L



Image 1. American Red Cross nurses tend to flu patients in temporary wards in Oakland, California, 1918. Photo by: Edward A. "Doc" Rogers. From the Joseph R. Knowland collection at the Oakland History Room, Oakland Public Library.

The influenza or flu pandemic of 1918 to 1919 was the deadliest in modern history. It infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide – about one-third of the planet's population at the time. It killed an estimated 20 million to 50 million victims. More than 25 percent of the U.S. population became sick, and some 675,000 died.

The 1918 flu was first observed in Europe, the United States, and parts of Asia before swiftly spreading around the world. Surprisingly, many victims were young, otherwise healthy adults. At the time, there were no effective drugs or vaccines to treat this killer flu strain or prevent its spread. In the U.S., citizens were ordered to wear masks. Schools, theaters and other public places were closed. Researchers later discovered what made the 1918 pandemic so deadly: The influenza virus invaded victims' lungs and caused pneumonia.

## Flu facts

The flu is a virus that attacks the respiratory system. The primary organs of the respiratory system are the lungs. The virus is highly contagious. When an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks,



respiratory droplets are generated and transmitted into the air. Someone nearby who inhales these droplets can become infected. Even a person who touches something with the virus on it and then touches his or her mouth, eyes, or nose can become infected.

Flu outbreaks happen every year. How severe they are depend in part on the type of flu virus spreading. Usually about 200,000 Americans a year are hospitalized for flu-related complications. These include pneumonia, ear and sinus infections, and bronchitis. Over the last three decades, between 3,000 and 49,000 people a year have died because of the flu. Some people face a higher risk of getting sick, including young children, people over age 65, and pregnant women, as well as people with certain medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease. A flu pandemic, such as the one in 1918, occurs when an especially powerful new influenza strain appears and spreads to many people across a wide geographic area.

### **The flu strikes far and wide**

The first wave of the 1918 pandemic occurred in the spring and was generally mild. The sick, who experienced typical symptoms as chills, fever, and fatigue, usually recovered after several days. Not many died. However, a second, highly contagious wave of influenza appeared in the fall of that same year. Victims died within hours or days of their symptoms appearing. Their skin turned blue and their lungs filled with fluid, causing them to suffocate.

It's unknown exactly where the 1918 flu virus came from. It became known as the "Spanish Flu" because Spain was one of the earliest countries to be hit hard by the disease.

One unusual aspect of the 1918 flu was that it affected so many young men and women who were otherwise healthy. This is a group that is not usually affected by the flu. In fact, according to journalist Gina Kolata, more U.S. soldiers died from the 1918 flu than died in battle during World War I (1914-1918).

Although the death toll of the 1918 flu is estimated at 20 million to 50 million victims worldwide, other estimates run as high as 100 million. The exact numbers are impossible to know due to a lack of medical record-keeping in many places.

### **Fighting the flu**

When the 1918 flu hit, doctors and scientists didn't know what caused it or how to treat it. Unlike today, they had no effective vaccines or antiviral drugs.

World War I had left parts of America with fewer doctors and nurses than in the past. Many of them came down with the flu themselves. In some areas, hospitals were so crowded with flu patients that schools and private homes had to be converted into makeshift hospitals, staffed by medical students.

Officials in some communities quarantined the sick. They ordered citizens to wear masks and even banned spitting. They shut down public places, including schools, churches and theaters. People were advised to avoid shaking hands and to stay indoors.

### **The flu takes a heavy toll on society**

The flu pandemic wiped out entire families.

It harmed every aspect of society, including the economy. In the U.S., businesses had to shut down because so many employees were sick. Basic services such as mail delivery and garbage collection were affected. In some places there weren't enough farm workers to harvest crops.

### **Flu pandemic finally ends**

By the summer of 1919, the flu pandemic came to an end. Infected people had either developed immunity or died. Almost 90 years later, in 2008, researchers announced they'd discovered why the 1918 flu was so deadly. It was a group of three genes in the virus that weakened a victim's bronchial tubes and lungs. This made it easy for the flu victims to develop pneumonia. Pneumonia is a lung infection that inflames the lungs and air sacs, causing them to fill with fluid. Pneumonia can make you very sick.

Since 1918, there have been several other influenza pandemics, although none as deadly. One outbreak from 1968 to 1969 killed approximately 1 million people, including some 34,000 Americans. More than 12,000 Americans died during the H1N1 (or "swine flu") pandemic that occurred from 2009 to 2010.



# Meet the Candidates: Joe Biden

By Newsela staff on 02.19.20

Word Count **1,085**

Level **1040L**

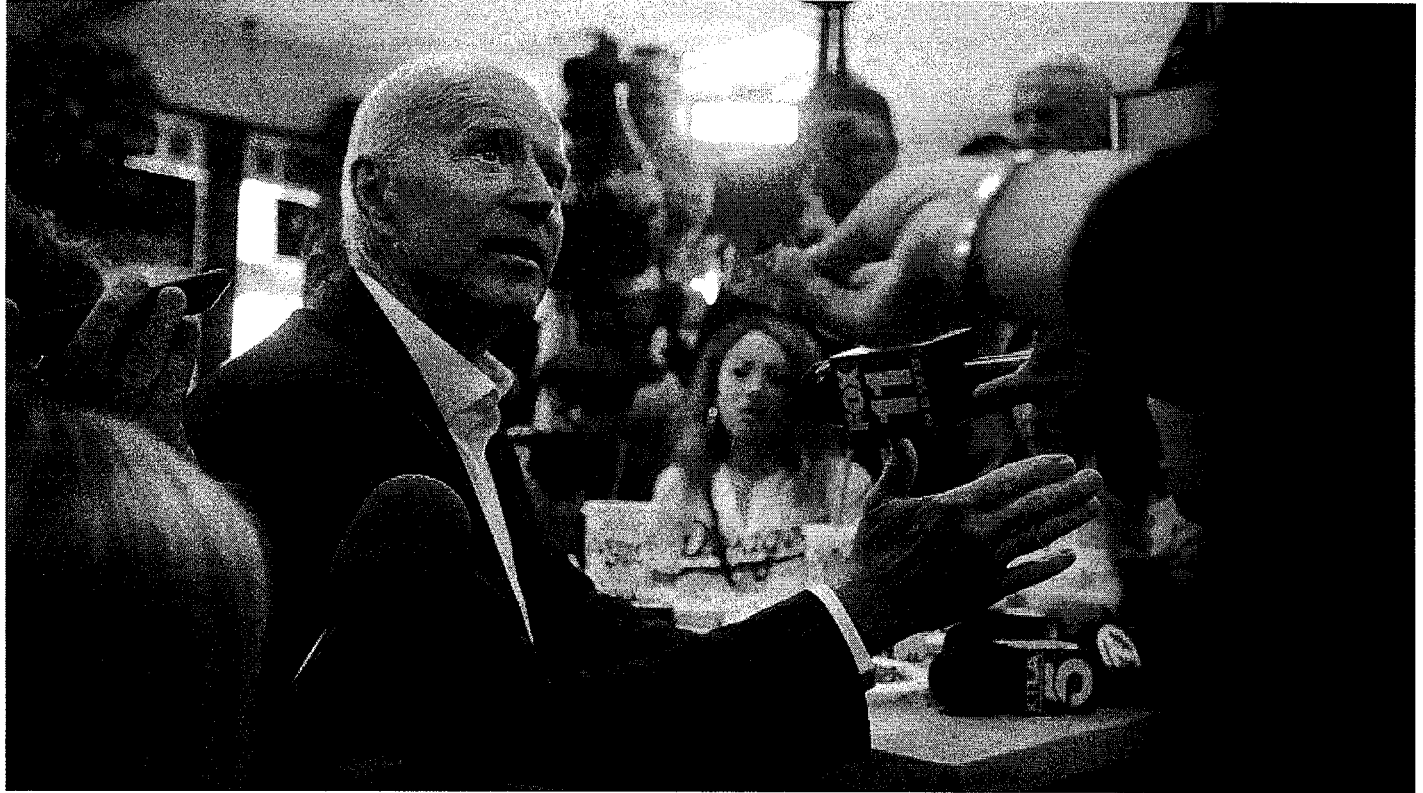


Image 1. Former Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden speaks to reporters after eating at a taco restaurant on May 8, 2019, in Los Angeles, California. Photo: Mario Tama/Getty Images

Creating shared interests and compromise between Democrats and Republicans has been a trend throughout Joe Biden's career.

That began in his days as a Delaware senator and continued in his becoming the vice president of the United States. Biden's life has been full of trial, tragedy and triumph. He hopes to triumph over President Donald Trump in 2020's election.

## Early Life

Joe Biden was born on November 20, 1942, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and moved to Delaware when he was 13. Biden went to the University of Delaware. Then he went to Syracuse University in New York to earn his degree in law.

## Senate Career

At age 29, Biden was elected to serve as a U.S. senator in the state of Delaware. Two weeks later Biden's wife and daughter were killed in a car accident. His two sons, Hunter and Beau, survived.

Despite the tragedy, Biden continued his career as a senator and became Delaware's longest-serving senator after winning reelection six times. As a senator, Biden became known for getting policies passed by cooperating and compromising across party lines.

### Key Policy Initiatives

In the 1990s, crime rates were rising across the country. Biden, along with a handful of other Senate Democrats and Republicans, was inspired to write a bill. It would impose tougher prison sentences for federal prisoners. It also encouraged states to follow suit by offering them money. The bill was signed into law by then-President Bill Clinton.

Today, some critics of this 1994 crime law say the law contributed to problems with mass incarceration, particularly the jailing of people of color. Biden has argued that these criticisms are incorrect. He points out that the bill affected federal incarceration, and that mass incarceration is a state problem. Data shows that 88 percent of people incarcerated are in state prisons or local jails. Also, most states didn't take the government money. States and cities had started their own plans to increase punishments for crime. Parts of the bill also became the Violence Against Women Act, which continues to be supported by most Democrats today.

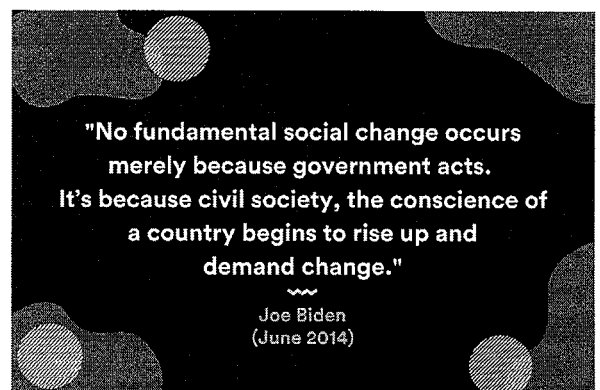


Biden also twice served as the Chairman for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 2001 to 2003, then again in 2007 to 2009. In 2002, he voted to authorize military presence in Iraq. Later, he became critical of the U.S. involvement there.

### Presidential Bid

In August of 2008, Barack Obama officially selected Joe Biden to be his running mate in the race against opponent John McCain and his running mate, Sarah Palin. On November 4, 2008, Obama won. As vice president, Biden became a vocal supporter of President Obama and fared well in approval polls. President Obama and Biden won two elections. Both served two terms as president and vice president.

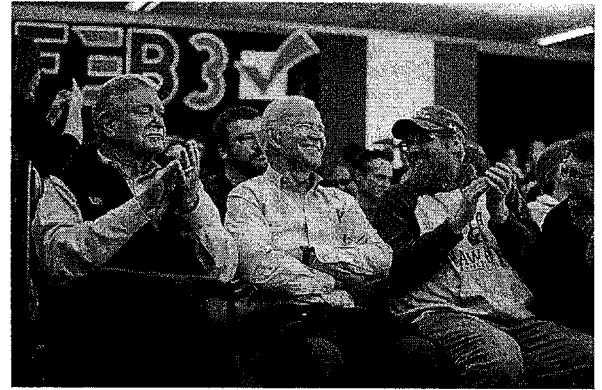
In 2015, during Biden's last term as vice president, his son Beau died of brain cancer. Devastated from the tragedy, Biden announced he would not run for president himself in 2016. Instead, he supported Hillary Clinton who was running as the Democratic nominee.



An active critic of Donald Trump, Biden announced in April 2019 that he would be running in 2020. He joined an already crowded Democratic field.

### **Why Biden Could Win**

In a country where party lines have never seemed more divisive, supporters of Biden were excited for a candidate that seemed a bit more moderate in his views. Current candidates like Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren are pushing for dramatic shifts in American policy and government expansion. So, Biden's policies can seem more familiar. Much of his campaign is based around continuing the work he had already been doing alongside President Obama.



Some voters have also been drawn to Biden's ability to reach across the aisle and build relationships with Republican lawmakers. They hope a moderate candidate like Biden could unite moderate voters with Democrats in the general election. He could take the race from the divisive President Donald Trump, his supporters believe.

### **Why Biden Could Lose**

Biden was the front-runner in the polls from the beginning. Partly because of this he has gotten the most criticism of any Democratic candidate. He's been accused by multiple women of inappropriate behavior, and his son serving on the board of a Ukrainian company has raised questions about corruption.

Several women claimed that Biden hugged or kissed them without consent and made them feel uncomfortable. Biden initially denied the allegations. He then issued a mild apology, saying, "I'm sorry I didn't understand more ... I'm not sorry for anything that I have ever done. I've never been disrespectful intentionally to a man or a woman."

Biden is also being examined for his son Hunter Biden's role as a board member at a Ukrainian natural gas company called Burisma Holdings, Ltd. Hunter Biden told ABC in an interview that he now realizes that it was unwise to join the board of a foreign company during his father's time as vice president. Still, the younger Biden denied that he did anything unethical. Joe Biden echoed his son's denials. He argued that while his son served on Burisma's board, he had also helped fight corruption in the country. Many Republicans, including President Donald Trump, have called for a formal investigation into the Bidens's relationship with Ukraine.

Beyond any media controversy, Biden may lose the election based on his moderate policy proposals. He also could have trouble getting young people to turn out the way they did when he ran with President Barack Obama. Polls show young voters backing progressive candidates like Sanders and Warren, who want more change. There is some fear that a moderate candidate like Biden will lose to President Trump in the general election just as Hillary Clinton did in 2016.

# Primary Sources: The Black Death, 1348

By Henry Knighton, adapted by Newsela staff on 03.30.17

Word Count 975

Level 1040L



A miniature from a 14th century Belgium manuscript showing people burying the dead from the Black Death in Tournai, Belgium.

*The Black Death was one of the worst plagues that spread death to many countries. From 75 million to 200 million people in Eurasia and Europe died in the years between 1346 and 1353. The Black Death is thought to have come from rats and started in the plains of Central Asia. It moved west along the Silk Road, maybe with Mongol troops, reaching Eastern Europe by 1343. Cargo ships bringing riches from the east also brought rats that had a bacteria, Yersinia Pestis, in their blood. Fleas on the rats bit them and drank the blood filled with Yersinia Pestis. Fleas then jumped onto humans and bit them. The Yersinia Pestis began killing humans by attacking the lungs and turning them to liquid. A cough spread the bacteria to other humans. The bacteria could also stop the blood from clotting, causing victims to bleed to death. Touching the blood or body of a sick person also spread the Black Death, which got its name because many victims were covered with black boils. There were at least two kinds of plague: pneumatic (lung) plague or bubonic (clotting) plague.*

*The Black Death arrived in Europe by sea in October 1347, when 12 trading ships docked in Sicily after a long journey through the Black Sea. Most of the sailors were dead and those that were still alive were very sick. The "death ships" were ordered out of the harbor, but it was too late,*



and thousands in Sicily died. The expelled ships brought the disease to other ports in Italy and France. Over the next five years, the Black Death would kill almost half of the population of Europe, or 25 million people.

Henry Knighton, an Augustinian priest at St. Mary's of Leicester in England, wrote several books about the history of England. This piece is about the Black Death.

### "48 Million People Died Suddenly"

In 1348 and 1349, many millions of people died throughout the world. It began first in India and moved west to Tarsus, Turkey, killing Muslims first and then Christians and Jews. The office of the pope believed that 48 million people died suddenly in those distant countries of Asia in the space of one year, from Easter to Easter. This did not include the death of Christians. When the king of Tarsus, a Muslim, saw this sudden loss of life among his people, he and his nobles set out to travel to the pope at Avignon, France. They wanted to become Christian and be baptized by the pope. The king believed that his people were being punished because they had not accepted Jesus Christ as the son of God. However, when he had completed 20 days of his journey, he heard that the fatal plague had killed many Christians, too. So they turned back to return to Tarsus. But Christians, who had been following the king and his people, attacked. They killed 1,312 people in Avignon the first day and 400 more on the second.

Then this most terrible plague came to the coast of England. It went through Southampton and came to Bristol. The cruel death took just two days to spread and almost the whole town was wiped out.

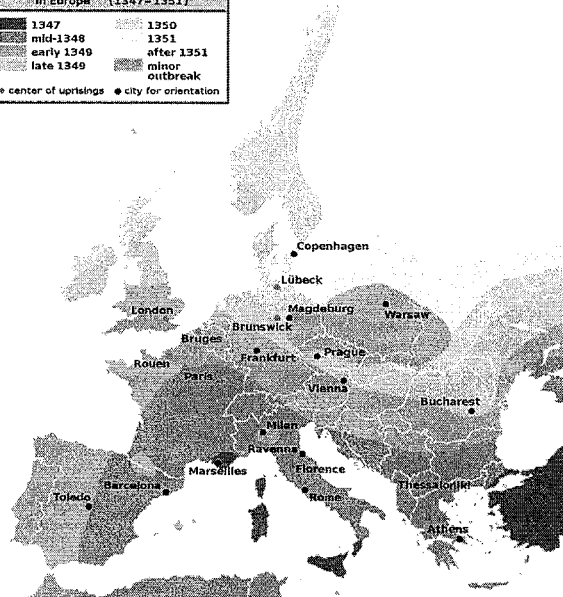
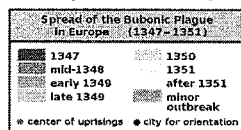
### "The Scots Heard That The Plague Was Killing Their Enemy"

In the same year, a deadly sickness killed sheep throughout the country. In one place more than 5,000 sheep died in a single pasture. Their bodies were so decayed that no animal or bird would touch them. Because there was the fear of death, animals were sold at a low price. Sheep and cattle roamed through the fields eating the corn and no one stopped them.

The Scots heard that the plague was killing their enemy, the English. They felt God was punishing England. So they gathered in the forest of Selkirk, near the border, planning to invade England. However, the monstrous plague suddenly came upon them and within a short space of time around 5,000 died. They retreated to Scotland, but the English attacked and killed many of them.

### "All Parties Feared The Spread Of The Plague"

At that time there were not enough priests in churches for masses, services, prayers for dying, or funerals. The plague moved through Dorset seaport, on to Devon, Somerset and up to Bristol. So the people of Gloucester stopped people escaping from Bristol. They feared the breath of those who had lived among the dying would spread the sickness. But in the end Gloucester, and then Oxford and London too, and finally the whole of England were so violently attacked that almost 90



percent of both men and women died. Cases in the courts of the king came to a stop, for all parties feared the spread of the plague. When the churchyards were not large enough to bury the dead, fields were used for the burials of the dead.

Hardly anyone dared to have anything to do with the sick. They fled from the things left by the dead, which had once been precious but were now poisonous to health. People who one day had been full of happiness on the next were found dead. Victims had little black boils scattered over their whole body. Of these people very few, indeed hardly any, recovered life and health. The plague, which began in Bristol on the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin [15 August] and in London around Michaelmas [29 September], raged for more than a year in England and completely emptied many villages.

In the following year it laid waste to the Welsh and English in Wales, and then it moved to Ireland, where the English residents were cut down in great numbers. But the native Irish living in the mountains and uplands were scarcely touched until 1357, when it took them unawares and killed them, too.



# Meet the Candidates: Michael Bloomberg

By Newsela on 02.17.20

Word Count 1,040

Level 1050L

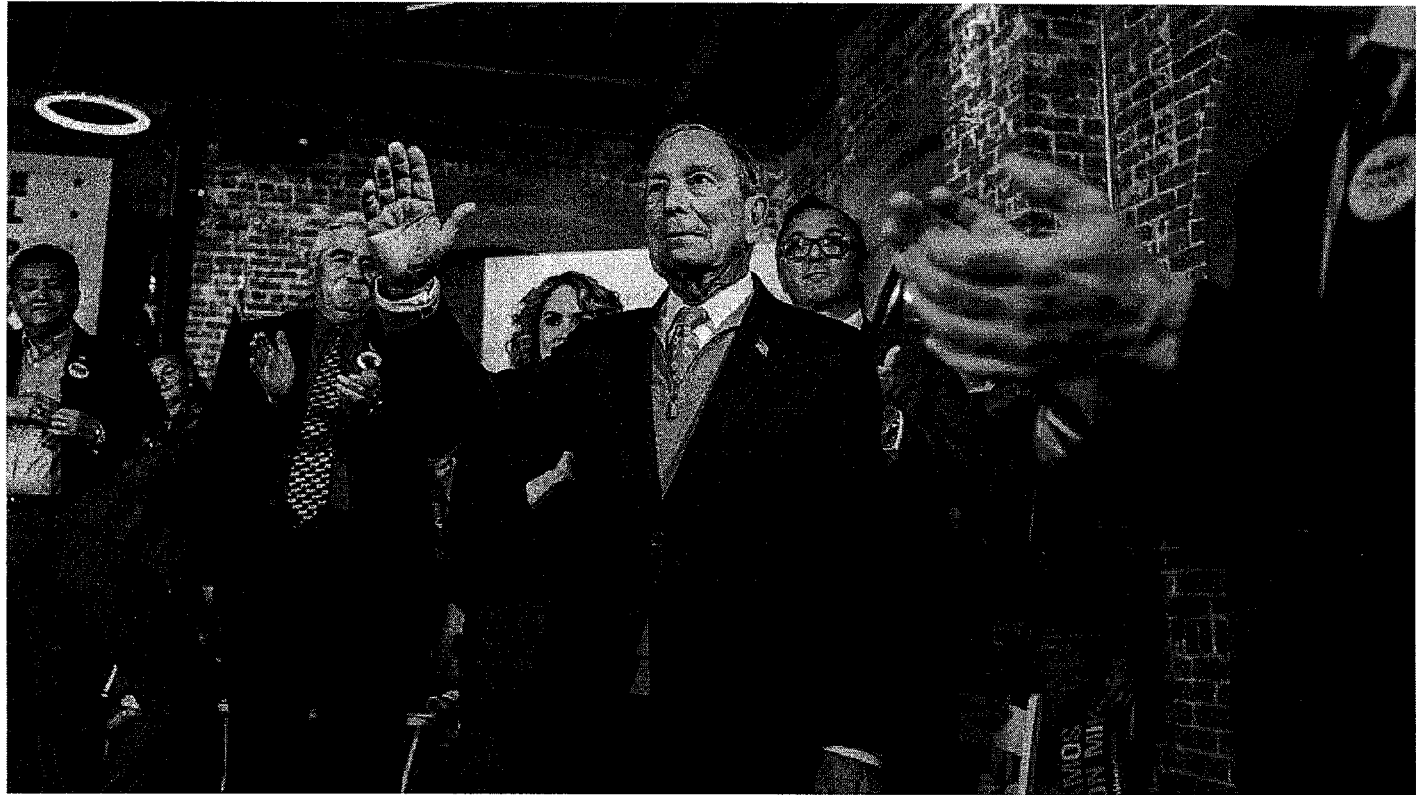


Image 1. Democratic presidential candidate and former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg arrives for a campaign rally on January 29, 2020, in El Paso, Texas. Photo: Cengiz Yar/Getty Images.

Michael Bloomberg is a billionaire businessman. He entered the race for the Democratic presidential nomination on November 24, 2019. As the eighth-wealthiest American, he has used his personal fortune to lead an unconventional campaign.

## Early Life And Education

Michael Bloomberg was born on February 14, 1943, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was raised in a middle-class Jewish household. He attended Johns Hopkins University and Harvard University. He graduated with a master of business administration degree in 1966. Soon after, he took a position at Salomon Brothers investment bank, where he achieved the level of partner in 1972. However, in 1981, Salomon Brothers was bought, and Bloomberg was laid off.

## Business Career

In 1982, Bloomberg started his own business, called Bloomberg L.P. The business was built around a financial information computer. Twenty years later, the company had become a global

leader in business and financial data with over 100 offices worldwide. With the enormous wealth he amassed, Bloomberg turned his attention to donating to philanthropic causes. He donated \$100 million to Johns Hopkins University and served on the board of leading cultural institutions. These included the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Central Park Conservancy and the Jewish Museum.

### **Career As Mayor Of New York**

Bloomberg entered the race for the mayor of New York in 2001 as a liberal Republican. He supported same-sex marriage and the pro-choice movement. He funded much of his campaign on his own, spending more than \$68 million of his own personal fortune. He was elected in 2002, succeeding Rudy Giuliani, and was re-elected in 2005.

His third and final term as mayor was surrounded by controversy. In October 2008, he announced that he would run for a third term as mayor if the term-limit law was amended. The New York City Council agreed to revise the law to allow three terms. Bloomberg was re-elected as mayor in November 2009. He spent upwards of \$90 million of his own fortune on his campaign, an unprecedented amount.

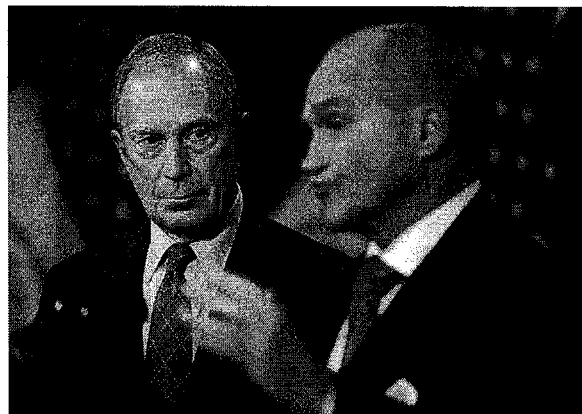
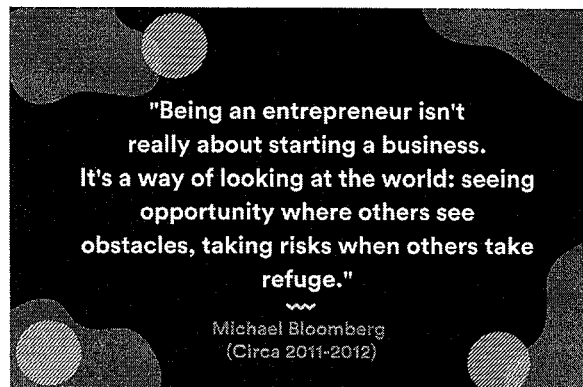
One of his most popular actions as mayor was establishing the 311-telephone line. It allows New York residents to call in to report a crime, trash problems and other issues. He was also passionate about housing and oversaw more than 120 rezoning plans. Under these plans, commercial sites were turned into residential areas. Additionally, in an attempt to reduce the crime rate, he supported the "stop-and-frisk" practice. This allowed police officers to briefly detain, question and search individuals based on a "reasonable suspicion" that they had been involved in a crime or were about to commit one. However, this practice was criticized as unfairly targeting minorities.

Bloomberg's last term as mayor ended in 2013, and he was succeeded by Bill de Blasio.

### **Key Policy Initiatives**

Bloomberg is outspoken about climate change and the impacts it will have on future generations. If elected president, Bloomberg intends to implement policies that will reduce carbon emissions and invest in clean energy projects.

Bloomberg is also passionate about the economy. He has a plan, called the "All-In Economy Agenda," to bring better jobs to the people and communities that he believes were hurt by the Trump administration. The plan makes job training a national priority.



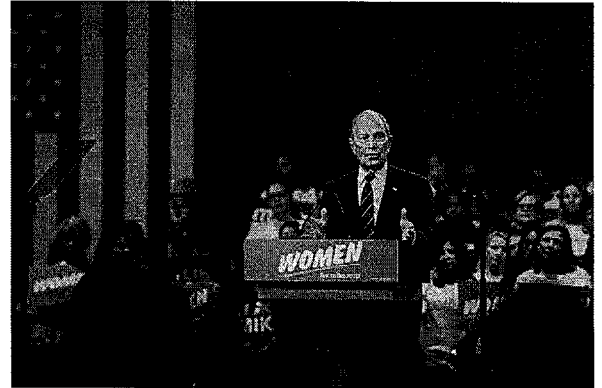
Additionally, Bloomberg views gun violence as a national emergency. He plans to implement more effective background checks. He also wants to ban assault weapons to protect communities and schools.

### **Presidential Bid**

In 2018, Bloomberg registered as a Democrat, raising speculation that he would run in the 2020 presidential election. In March 2019, he put these speculations to rest by announcing that he would not be running.

However, in November 2019, he reversed this decision by filing paperwork just in time to qualify for the Alabama primary. He formally entered the race on November 24, 2019.

His campaign took an unconventional path. It was too late for him to compete in the first primaries held in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. He is instead focusing his efforts on a broad, national campaign. He plans to target states with a large number of delegates, such as California, Texas and New York.



In the early days of his campaign, he reserved \$35 million for television commercials that would highlight his political agenda.

### **Why Bloomberg Could Win**

Bloomberg's late entry into the race provided centrist voters with an additional moderate option.

Bloomberg's billionaire status may also prove beneficial in his campaign, as he is able to fund large-scale advertisements. Additionally, moderate voters who appreciated Trump's position as a wealthy businessman may turn to Bloomberg as an alternative.

Additionally, Bloomberg's novel campaign approach may work out in his favor. He will not have to face the possibility of overcoming potentially harmful polling numbers in the Iowa caucus and other early primaries.

### **Why Bloomberg Could Lose**

On the other hand, Bloomberg's late entry into the race may leave him scrambling to catch up with the more established candidates, such as Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden. Some may question his enormous wealth.

Bloomberg's controversial "stop-and-frisk" policy may also draw scrutiny and affect his ability to gain the support of black and Latino voters. In November 2019, Bloomberg apologized for the effects of "stop-and-frisk." However, he issued his apology only after declaring his intention to run for the presidency.

Bloomberg has also faced scrutiny for making crude remarks about women. As the Democratic party tries to defeat President Trump, who has faced multiple allegations of sexual assault, voters may be hesitant to put their support behind Bloomberg.

# Meet the Candidates: Pete Buttigieg

By Newsela on 02.12.20

Word Count 1,093

Level 1040L

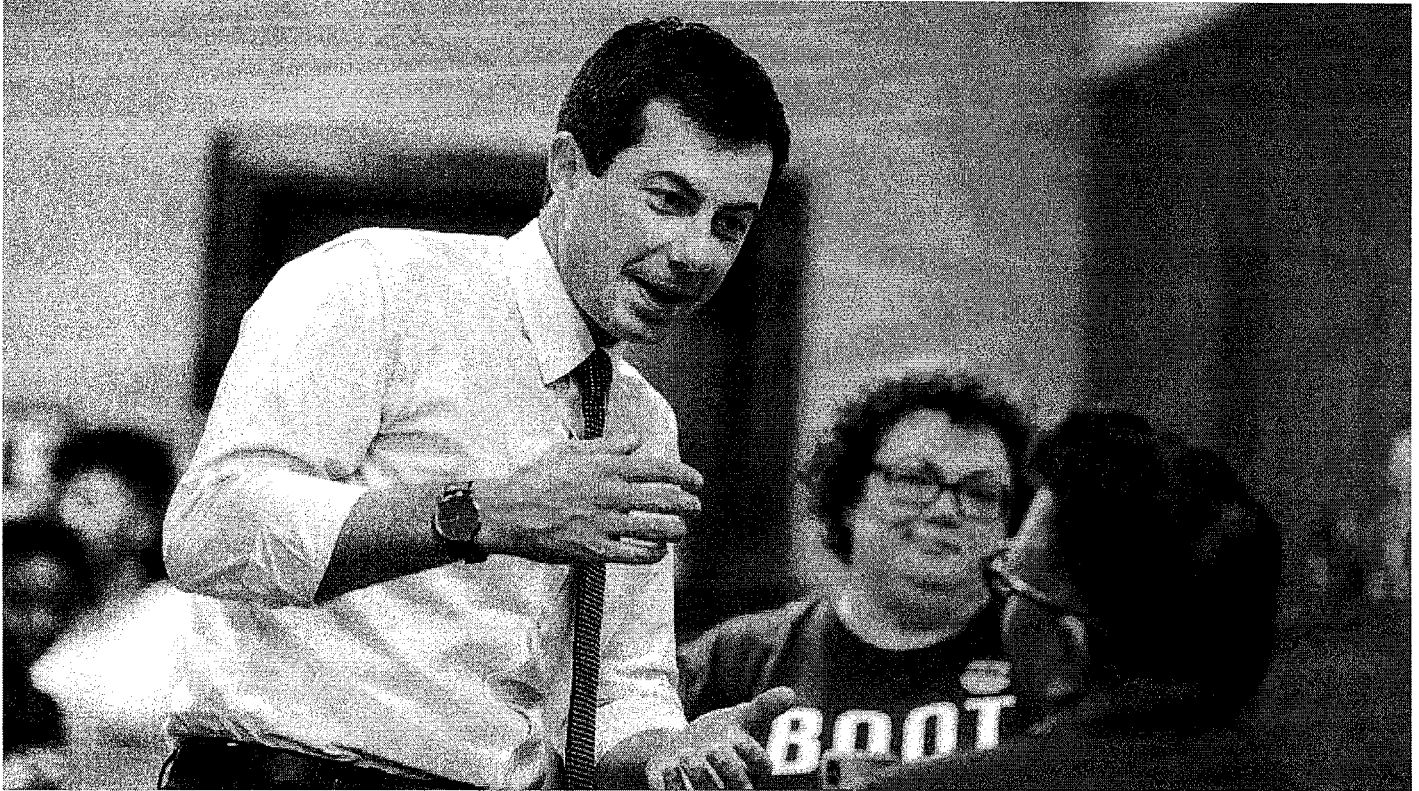


Image 1. Democratic presidential candidate Mayor Pete Buttigieg speaks with supporters at a canvassing kickoff event October 27, 2019, in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Many presidential hopefuls campaigned in the early primary state over that weekend, scheduling stops around a criminal justice forum in the state capital. Photo: Sean Rayford/Getty Images.

## The Candidates: Pete Buttigieg

Pete Buttigieg is the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana. He has built his 2020 presidential campaign around the idea of change for a new generation. If elected, Buttigieg would be the youngest, as well as the first openly gay, president in U.S. history.

## Early Life And Education

Pete Buttigieg was born on January 19, 1982, in South Bend, Indiana. His father, Joseph A. Buttigieg, immigrated from Malta, a small island country in Europe. Joseph and Pete's mother, Jennifer Montgomery, were both professors at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana for over 30 years.

Growing up among academics, Buttigieg excelled in school. He was the valedictorian of his high school class and attended Harvard University as a history and literature major. After graduating, he was a Rhodes scholar at the University of Oxford in England, where he received a bachelor's

degree in philosophy, politics and economics. Buttigieg also speaks eight languages, including English, Spanish, Italian, French, Maltese, Arabic, Dari and Norwegian.

After graduating from college, he worked on John Kerry's presidential campaign in 2004. From 2007 to 2010, he worked as a consultant at McKinsey & Company in Chicago. The company helps businesses improve their performance.

### **Career As Mayor Of South Bend, Indiana**

In January 2012, when Buttigieg was just 29 years old, he took office as mayor of South Bend, Indiana. It made him the youngest mayor of a town with at least 100,000 residents in U.S. history.

In March 2012, there were complaints that Darryl Boykins, the city's first black American police chief, had illegally wiretapped police officers' phone calls. In response, Buttigieg demoted Boykins, and then later asked for his resignation. Boykins eventually sued the city, claiming discrimination, as previous white police chiefs had supposedly wiretapped officers' phones as well. Throughout his campaign, Buttigieg has been questioned about this event.

Despite this dispute, Buttigieg made major efforts to transform the city by fixing old buildings no one was using. On February 27, 2013, he released the Vacant and Abandoned Properties Task Force Report.

It called for 1,000 unused properties to be addressed in 1,000 days. In September 2015, the goal was accomplished and over 1,000 properties were fixed up or torn down.

In 2007, Buttigieg enlisted in the U.S. military. Two years later, he became a U.S. Navy Reserve Officer. In February 2014, while he was serving his first term as the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, he was sent to Kabul, Afghanistan, as an intelligence officer. He returned in September of that same year to continue his job as mayor.

Gay marriage was legalized in the United States on June 26, 2015. Ten days earlier, Buttigieg had come out as a gay man in an essay for the South Bend Tribune.

He served two terms as mayor of South Bend, Indiana. He officially left office on January 1, 2019.

### **Key Policy Initiatives**

More progressive 2020 presidential candidates, such as Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, support "Medicare for All" health care plans. Medicare is free health care for anyone age 65 and older. "Medicare for All" would let Americans of any age join the program.

Buttigieg instead promotes a middle-ground approach on the issue. He calls it "Medicare for All Who Want It." Under his plan, Americans would have the choice to "opt-in" to a government-run health care plan, but a private insurance option would still be available.



Buttigieg has struggled to gain the support of black Americans. As a result, he revealed The Douglass Plan. It is named after the civil rights activist Frederick Douglass who fought against slavery. Buttigieg claims the plan will address racism and focuses on health care, education, criminal justice, housing and voting rights.

Buttigieg also plans to address the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community and pave the way for a "new era." This plan includes granting access to affordable health care coverage for all LGBTQIA+ people and ensuring that everyone with HIV is treated. It also seeks to end youth homelessness and ensure the safety of all LGBTQIA+ people, especially transgender women of color.

Buttigieg has also created a plan called "A New Call for Service." It would create a pathway for young people to engage in their communities through national service, such as the Peace Corps. He encourages young people to engage in issues such as climate change, addiction and mental health.

### **Presidential Bid**

In April 2019, Buttigieg launched his official presidential campaign. He quickly became a serious contender in the race, trailing behind front-runners Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren in polls. However, in February he narrowly beat Sanders to win the Iowa caucus, the first vote in primary season.

### **Why Buttigieg Could Win**

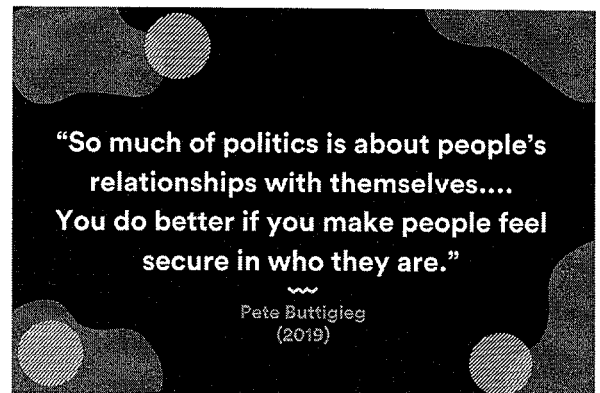
Compared to more progressive candidates, such as Warren and Sanders, Buttigieg's plans call for smaller changes to society. This may be attractive for older, more centrist voters, as could his military experience. In a recent Quinnipiac University poll, Buttigieg placed second among voters over 50 years old.

Buttigieg is also a young, outsider candidate. Bill Clinton and Barack Obama were similar. Sometimes voters like a candidate who hasn't spent too much time in Washington. They think an outsider could shake up the government.

Additionally, young voters increasingly concerned with the safety and welfare of LGBTQIA+ people may feel that Buttigieg's LGBTQIA+ plan offers a sense of hope and togetherness.

### **Why Buttigieg Could Lose**

On the other hand, Buttigieg's plans may work against him. Many young progressives are gravitating toward more progressive candidates, such as Bernie Sanders. The same Quinnipiac University poll found that Buttigieg earned just 2 percent of support among voters under age 35.



Additionally, Buttigieg has struggled to gain the support of black voters. Current and former staff members of color on his campaign have complained that their opinions were often undervalued. Recent polls show his support among black voters between 0 and 2 percent.

Maybe most damaging to Buttigieg's chances is that he is younger and less experienced than most other candidates. He is just 37 years old. He has only been a mayor. Most of the other candidates have served in Congress.



# Meet the Candidates: Amy Klobuchar

By Newsela staff on 02.19.20

Word Count **1,046**

Level **1060L**



Image 1. Senator Amy Klobuchar talks with supporters at Shift Cyclery and Coffee Bar in Eau Claire, Wisconsin in 2019. Photo: Lorie Shaul/Wikimedia Commons.

Senator Amy Klobuchar may be able to act as a bridge between Democrats and Republicans. Currently, Klobuchar serves as the senior senator from Minnesota. Klobuchar believes her Midwestern roots and moderate views will help the Democratic Party win the presidency in 2020.

## Early Life

Born on May 25, 1960, Amy Klobuchar grew up in Plymouth, Minnesota. After graduating as the valedictorian of her high school class, Klobuchar received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Yale University in 1982. She then attended the University of Chicago to study law. Klobuchar returned to Minnesota to work as a corporate lawyer for several years.

## Political Career

"Courage is about whether or not you're willing to stand next to someone you don't always agree with for the betterment of this country."

~  
Amy Klobuchar  
(2015)



Klobuchar first became politically active in 1995 following the difficult birth of her daughter. Klobuchar's daughter was born with the inability to swallow. Despite her child's medical problem, the hospital discharged Klobuchar after 24 hours because it was a health insurance policy. Klobuchar then lobbied the Minnesota state legislature for a 24-hour extension for new mothers, allowing them to stay at hospitals longer. The bill passed in Minnesota, and in 1996, President Bill Clinton signed it into federal law.

From 1998 to 2006, Klobuchar served as the Hennepin County Attorney, where she was responsible for prosecuting criminal cases. She rose to prominence in these years as a member of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, which is the name for the Democratic Party in Minnesota. In 2006, Klobuchar became the first woman from Minnesota to be elected to the United States Senate. She won re-election as a senator in 2012 and again in 2018.

In October 2018, there was a contentious confirmation hearing on potential Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Several women accused him of committing sexual assault when he was younger. Since Klobuchar serves on the Senate Judiciary Committee, she was involved in the hearing. During the hearing, Klobuchar and Kavanaugh had a short but heated exchange. When Klobuchar asked Kavanaugh about his drinking habits, he turned the question around on Klobuchar. Before this incident, Klobuchar had openly discussed her father's problem with alcohol. Her father's drinking had inspired her to advocate for making drunk driving a felony in Minnesota in 2001. Kavanaugh apologized to Klobuchar for his behavior later in the hearing.



### **Key Policy Initiatives**

Compared to other Democratic presidential candidates, most of Klobuchar's political positions are moderate. For example, she supports universal health care, but not Medicare for All. Medicare for All is a proposal supported by Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. Medicare is free government health care for people over age 65. Medicare for All would let everyone use the Medicare system. It would establish a national health care program that would make private health insurance unneeded.

Klobuchar thinks people have different needs in different parts of the country. She would expand Medicare, but also keep Obamacare and private insurance plans.

Klobuchar also supports raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. She favors reforming the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) instead of abolishing it, and providing free community college and technical training programs.

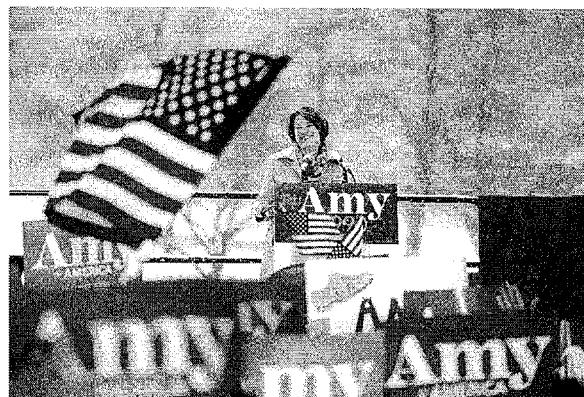
### **Presidential Bid**

In 2008, The New York Times named Klobuchar one of the women most likely to become the first female president. Following the 2016 election of Donald Trump, the newspaper named her as a possible 2020 nominee.

Klobuchar announced her campaign to run for the Democratic nomination on February 10, 2019. The televised event took place in the middle of a snowstorm in Minneapolis.

### **Why Klobuchar Could Win**

Many have described our current time as one of the most politically divided in American history. Amidst this division, Klobuchar has emerged as a moderate Democratic candidate. Many people believe she can reach across party lines. During her first year as a senator, she belonged to a bipartisan group, including both Democrats and Republicans, to address immigration. Klobuchar introduced 92 bills between 2017 and 2019, 65 of which had a cosponsor from outside of the Democratic Party.



Klobuchar's supporters point to her ability to gain a broad base of support in a politically divided Midwestern state. Minnesota's electoral votes went to Hillary Clinton in 2016. However, Donald Trump won 78 of Minnesota's 87 counties. Clinton got the electoral votes because the counties she won had the most people in them.

In contrast to Clinton, Klobuchar won 51 counties in the 2018 senatorial election. Democratic Party leaders may find Klobuchar's ability to win over Trump voters to be a point in her favor in the 2020 election.

### **Why Klobuchar Could Lose**

Although Klobuchar has qualified for every debate, her polling and fundraising numbers are very low in comparison to the frontrunners, former Vice President Joe Biden and Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. In national polls, Klobuchar is falling behind her competition. Most recently, she scored only 4 percent. Polls are telephone interviews done with thousands of Americans to find out how they plan to vote. Only scoring 4 percent means that out of every 100 people called in the poll, just 4 said they would vote for her. She also has not raised as much money as the Democratic frontrunners. Klobuchar has raised \$29 million in total as compared to Sanders' \$108 million.

Before the launch of her presidential campaign, anonymous reports surfaced about Klobuchar's poor treatment of her staff members. Former aides claimed she is verbally abusive. They said she has been known to throw objects when her demands are not met. Publicly, Klobuchar has admitted she can be a tough boss, and promised to do better in the future.

In the election, Klobuchar's moderate policies may not be enough to draw liberal voters away from Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. She has been reluctant to support bills such as Medicare for All, which most other candidates support. This might hurt her among more liberal voters.

Senator Klobuchar is one of several Democratic candidates who attended Donald Trump's impeachment hearings. This required her to spend time away from the campaign trail.

# Meet the Candidates: Bernie Sanders

By Newsela staff on 02.13.20

Word Count **998**

Level **1040L**



Image 1. Senator Bernie Sanders walking in the Independence Day parade with supporters in Ames, Iowa, in 2019. Photo: Gage Skidmore/Flickr.

Bernie Sanders describes himself as a Democratic Socialist, and is the longest-serving member of Congress. On February 19, 2019, he announced that he will run for president. He wants the Democratic Party to nominate him as their candidate for the presidential election of 2020.

## Early Life And Education

Sanders was born on September 8, 1941, in Brooklyn, New York. He was born into a Jewish immigrant family from Poland, and he became familiar with the economic inequality in America early on. He graduated from James Madison High School in Brooklyn, attended Brooklyn College from 1959 to 1960, and then earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Chicago in 1964. While in Chicago, he became involved in the civil rights movement. After graduating, he lived in a community in Israel called a kibbutz.

## Career As Mayor Of Burlington And Congressman

Later, Sanders left Israel and moved to Vermont, where he became involved in the anti-Vietnam War movement. This got him interested in running for government positions. He ran for governor of Vermont and the U.S. Senate a few times, but was never elected. He was elected mayor of Burlington, Vermont, in 1981, and was re-elected as mayor three times.

In 1990, Sanders was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served 16 years. Sanders was not a member of a specific political party back then, but he later began working with the Democrats and helped create a group in Congress that supports progressive laws.

### **Senate Career**

In 2006, Sanders won a seat in the Senate. In 2010, Sanders made news by holding a filibuster in the Senate, in which he spoke for over eight hours in an attempt to block continued tax cuts for the wealthy.

Sanders was a member of several committees in Congress that focused on issues like health, education and military veterans.

Sanders is currently serving his third term in the U.S. Senate, after being re-elected in 2018.

### **Key Policy Initiatives**

Throughout his political career, Sanders has focused largely on issues of social welfare and economic inequality. He supports public health care for all and wants to make public universities free. He believes in increasing the minimum wage and raising taxes on the wealthy.

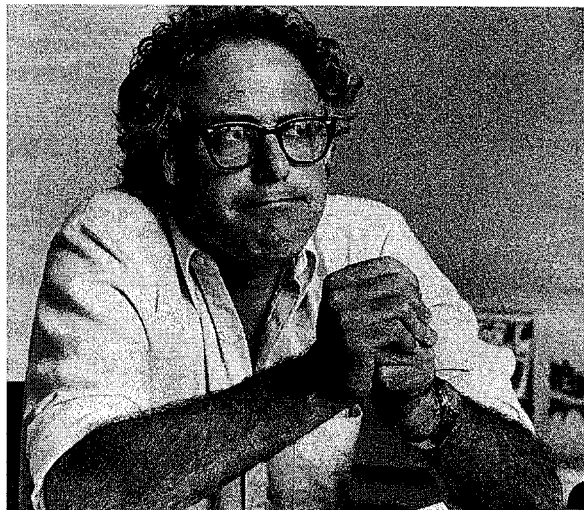
Sanders also cares a lot about climate change. On August 22, 2019, he announced his \$16.3 trillion Green New Deal plan. Sanders claims that the plan would transform the U.S. energy system to 100 percent renewable energy and help reduce harmful carbon emissions around the world.

Sanders has been outspoken about other issues, too. These include women's rights, racial injustice, LGBTQIA+ rights, gun safety and changes to immigration laws.

### **Presidential Bids**

In April 2015, Sanders announced that he was seeking the presidential nomination for the Democratic Party. Sanders identifies as a Democratic Socialist. However, he decided to run as a Democrat because running as an independent would have been too expensive and time-consuming.

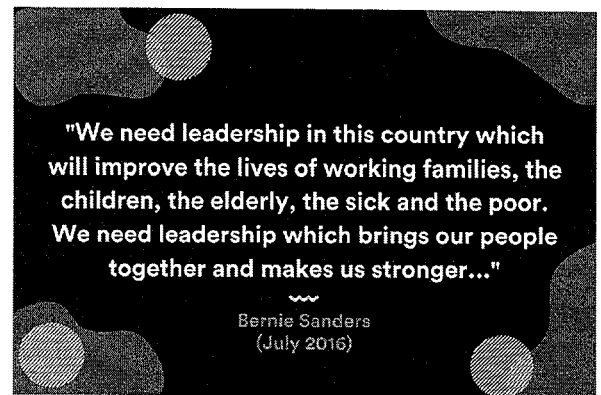
Sanders was competing against Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination. Many viewed him as the underdog. However, he made history with his grassroots fundraising campaign, in which he relied on small, individual donations instead of contributions from large corporations. According



to CNN, the average donation amount was \$27, but in total his campaign raised more than \$182 million. In the end, Sanders ended his campaign and began supporting Hillary Clinton for president.

Many people believed Sanders would run for president again in 2020. Sure enough, he announced his intention to run for the Democratic nomination on February 19, 2019.

In October 2019, Sanders was hospitalized for a few days. After he was released, he said he was feeling better and "ready to get back to work."



### **Why Sanders Could Win**

Primaries will begin in February. In these elections, voters can express who they want to be the Democratic nominee. At first, former Vice President Joe Biden was leading the polls as the most popular candidate among Democratic primary voters. Sanders is the second-most popular candidate in polls but his supporters are growing, especially in states where primaries are held early.

In the Iowa caucus in February, there was nearly a tie between Sanders and Pete Buttigieg for the most votes. But, there were problems with the count. There may be a recount. These early primaries are important because they can give an indication of how a candidate will perform with the rest of American voters.

In both his 2016 and 2020 campaigns, Sanders has demonstrated his strength with young voters. One national poll shows that in 2020, Sanders has the support of 39 percent of voters under age 45. Sanders' campaign has used social media to gain supporters, including the 2019 trending hashtag #NoMiddleGround.

Sanders is also leading candidates in raising money. He received \$25 million in donations just in the month of January. Only billionaire Michael Bloomberg, who is paying for his campaign and not accepting donations, has more money to spend at the moment.

### **Why Sanders Could Lose**

Sanders has a large number of young supporters, but only 16 percent of voters over age 45 said they would vote for Sanders. Additionally, more-moderate voters may choose Biden over Sanders because they are more familiar with his views.

In addition, Sanders faced some criticism after his 2016 presidential campaign. Female campaign staff members said they experienced sexual harassment and were not paid the same as men. Sanders made a statement promising to "do better" in his 2020 campaign. However, some people feel that these criticisms weaken the efforts Sanders has made to improve women's rights and increase the minimum wage.

## Quiz

1 Read the following sentences from the article.

1. *He graduated from James Madison High School in Brooklyn, attended Brooklyn College from 1959 to 1960, and then earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Chicago in 1964.*
2. *Sanders is currently serving his third term in the U.S. Senate, after being re-elected in 2018.*
3. *He supports public health care for all and wants to make public universities free.*
4. *He believes in increasing the minimum wage and raising taxes on the wealthy.*

Which two sentences taken together provide the BEST evidence to support the idea that Bernie Sanders wants to improve the lives of Americans?

- (A) 1 and 2
- (B) 1 and 4
- (C) 2 and 3
- (D) 3 and 4

2 Which sentence from the section "Why Sanders Could Win" BEST explains a strategy that Bernie Sanders has for appealing to young voters?

- (A) Sanders is the second-most popular candidate in polls but his supporters are growing, especially in states where primaries are held early.
- (B) One national poll shows that in 2020, Sanders has the support of 39 percent of voters under age 45.
- (C) Sanders' campaign has used social media to gain supporters, including the 2019 trending hashtag #NoMiddleGround.
- (D) He received \$25 million in donations just in the month of January.

3 Read the following paragraph from the section "Presidential Bids."

*Sanders was competing against Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination. Many viewed him as the underdog. However, he made history with his grassroots fundraising campaign, in which he relied on small, individual donations instead of contributions from large corporations. According to CNN, the average donation amount was \$27, but in total his campaign raised more than \$182 million. In the end, Sanders ended his campaign and began supporting Hillary Clinton for president.*

How would the article change if the paragraph above came before the introduction [paragraph 1]?

- (A) Readers would learn about the first time Sanders ran to be the Democratic presidential candidate before learning about his current campaign.
- (B) Readers would learn about Sanders' current campaign to be the Democratic presidential candidate before learning about his first attempt.
- (C) Readers would learn that Sanders is a Democratic Socialist before learning that he wanted the Democratic Party to nominate him.
- (D) Readers would learn that Sanders wanted the Democratic Party to nominate him in 2020 before learning that he is a Democratic Socialist.

What is the MAIN reason the author includes the section "Career As Mayor Of Burlington And Congressman"?

- (A) to highlight a part of Sanders' political career that he regrets
- (B) to show why Sanders' political career has taken off in recent years
- (C) to describe Sanders' political career the year before his presidential bid
- (D) to explain the early part of Sanders' political career



# Meet the Candidates: President Donald Trump

By Newsela staff on 02.20.20

Word Count 1,029

Level 1050L



Image 1. President Donald Trump smiles at his desk in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C., August 27, 2018. Photo: Mandel Ngan/AFP/Getty Images.

President Donald Trump begins the 2020 election in the advantageous position of already being president. Sitting presidents are hard to beat. Only five sitting presidents lost reelection in the 20th century. However, President Trump has just completed a bruising impeachment hearing. Voters are more divided than ever in opinion polling about the president. His supporters hope that the economic successes of his first term will outweigh any damage done during the impeachment proceedings.

## First Term

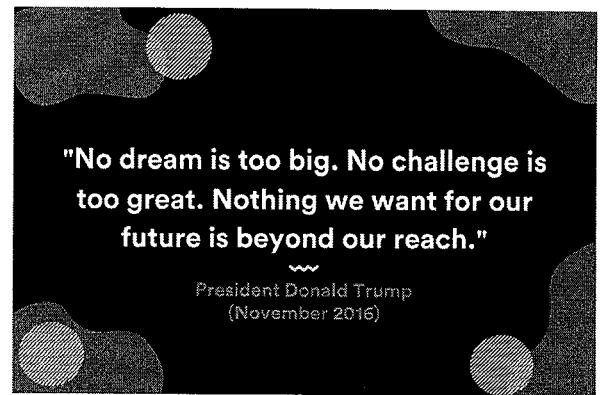
In President Trump's first 100 days in office, his administration targeted immigration and border rules. Trump used his powers as president to stop citizens from certain countries from entering the U.S. The countries were Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria and Yemen.

In January 2017, Trump signed an executive action to start constructing a wall along the Mexico border. He forced a near-shutdown of the government and declared a state of emergency to move funds from other government departments to pay for the wall. Only a few miles of new wall have



been built so far. Most of the money has been used to repair the 650-mile fence built under George W. Bush's administration.

President Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Climate Accord in June 2017. The agreement addressed the effects of climate change and was signed by nearly 200 countries. Trump claimed it would harm U.S. businesses.



In December 2017, Trump signed into law new tax cuts. The cuts lowered corporate taxes permanently.

The cuts also temporarily lowered taxes for many individuals. Trump argued that the cuts would help the economy to grow and encourage businesses to hire more workers. H&R Block is a company that many people hire to do their taxes. H&R Block said that the people it calculated taxes for, in 2018, paid an average of \$1,200 less than in 2017, because of the tax cuts.

Critics, however, argued that the tax cuts unfairly benefited the rich much more than the poor. They said the cuts would only provide a short boost to the economy. They also said the cost of the cuts would increase the amount of debt the government has.

Trump's pledge to get rid of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, hasn't been successful. However, his legislative and legal challenges have weakened elements of the law.

Recently, Trump replaced the unpopular North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The USMCA, however, is by many accounts just an updated NAFTA. It adds protections for intellectual property, the environment and data. The law does require more car and truck parts to be produced in North America, higher wages and an easier path to unionization for Mexican workers. These provisions helped secure the support of Democrats and unions.

### **Key Policy Initiatives**

President Trump promises more of the same in a second term. He promises tough action on undocumented migrants, building the border wall, new attacks on Obamacare and more energy production in national parks and government land.

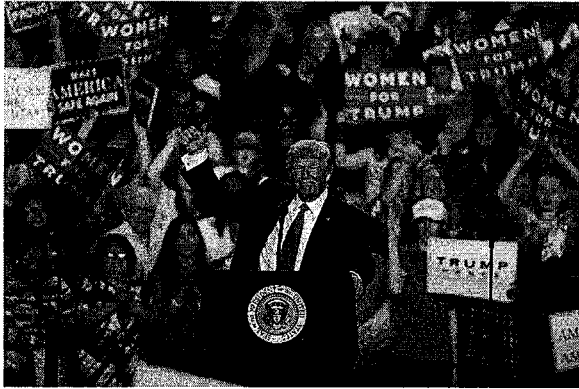
Despite Trump's promise to deport "millions" of undocumented immigrants, he trails President Barack Obama. During his time in office, Obama averaged 383,000 deportations a year. Trump's highest year total by comparison was 267,258 in 2019. He blames this in part on "sanctuary cities" that will not cooperate with his deportation efforts.

Trump has a plan to plant 1 trillion trees to absorb carbon dioxide to combat climate change. He promises that "we will always protect your Medicare and always protect your Social Security, always." Trump also promoted new spending on roads, bridges and buildings, which is considered a safe bipartisan issue.

### **Presidential Bid**

President Trump's reelection campaign began just weeks after his election. The president announced, in 2018, that current Vice President Mike Pence would once again be his running partner.

Trump



has roughly \$100 million for his campaign. He brought in \$46 million in the final quarter of 2019. Donors were likely motivated by the impeachment proceedings.

### **Why Trump Could Win**

Trump benefits from a strong economy. Unemployment dropped to 3.5 percent in December 2019, a level not seen since December 1969. The stock market, as measured by the Dow Jones Industrial Average, has gone up over 50 percent since election day. It hit an all-time high of 29,379 on February 6, 2020.

Given where Democrats and Republicans are located around the nation, there is the possibility of a repeat of the 2016 election: Trump may lose the popular vote but win the Electoral College.

### **Why Trump Could Lose**

Despite a strong economy, there is a continued sense that many people have been left out of its growth. Income inequality has continued to increase. The rich are getting richer while the national minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour hasn't moved in a decade. Though booming housing prices have benefited home owners, younger Americans face slow wage growth, heavy student debts and a tough road to home ownership. They may see the American Dream as slipping farther out of their reach. Additionally, Trump's tax cuts may not be enough to make working-class Americans feel they can pay for the things they need.

In the 2018 midterm elections, a decent number of Republican voters, especially suburban women, voted instead for Democratic lawmakers. If a Democratic candidate can appeal to those voters they may have success. Additionally, there are millions of people who are not registered to vote or who do not vote. Democratic efforts to motivate those people could deliver the White House to a Democrat. Only 56 percent of voting-age Americans voted in 2016.



# Meet the Candidates: Elizabeth Warren

By Newsela staff on 02.18.20

Word Count **969**

Level **1060L**



Image 1. Democratic presidential candidate Senator Elizabeth Warren speaks into a megaphone after joining striking Stop & Shop workers on April 12, 2019, in Somerville, Massachusetts. Photo: Scott Eisen/Getty Images.

Elizabeth Warren went from being a lawyer with expertise in bankruptcy law to a progressive politician when she won a U.S. Senate seat in 2012. She has positioned herself as a champion for the economic values of working-class Americans. As a senator, Warren has worked to change the financial industry and positioned herself against banks and large corporations such as Facebook. In the 2020 presidential election, she is one of the most progressive Democratic candidates. Progressives favor government programs designed to make society more equal.

## Early Life

Elizabeth Warren was born Elizabeth Herring on June 22, 1949, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She graduated high school at 16 years old, then enrolled at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. After two years, she married Jim Warren and relocated to Texas, where she received a degree in pathology from the University of Houston in the early 1970s. For a brief time afterward, she worked at a New Jersey elementary school.

## Law Career

While raising two children, Warren attended graduate school at Rutgers University in New Jersey. She received her law degree in 1976. By 1978, she had divorced her first husband and was becoming a legal expert in bankruptcy law. From 1977 to 2012, she taught law courses at various universities across the country, including Rutgers and Harvard Law.

### Political Career

During the 2008 recession, the economy sharply declined. Democratic Senator Harry Reid chose Warren to lead the Congressional Oversight Panel. It was a government group formed to oversee how the government had used the \$700 billion it had been authorized to lend to banks and other companies to stabilize the economy. In 2010, President Barack Obama made Warren an adviser on a new government agency, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Warren was prevented, however, from becoming the permanent director of the CFPB due to opposition from members of both parties.

In 2011, Warren announced her decision to run for U.S. Senate in Massachusetts as a Democrat. The following year, Warren beat the Republican Senator Scott Brown and took his seat. She became the first woman to be elected to the U.S. Senate for Massachusetts. As a senator, Warren was known for challenging leaders in her own party, working across party lines and pushing for reforms on banking rules and student loan systems. She was reelected in 2018 with around 60 percent of the vote.



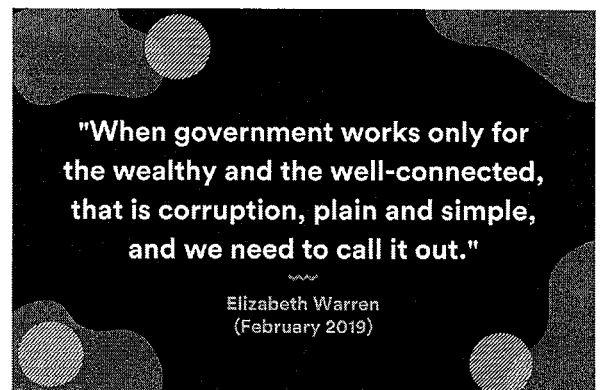
### Key Policy Initiatives

Warren has presented herself as working on behalf of the underprivileged working class. As a senator, Warren poised herself as an enemy of large corporations and banks. Throughout her time as a senator, she has tried to improve student loan programs. She introduced the Bank on Student Loans Fairness Act in 2013. This would set interest rates for student loans as low as banks can get interest rates. Her presidential platform includes promises to increase government spending on housing construction, child care for all and clean energy research among other public programs.

### Presidential Bid

During the 2016 presidential election, many people suggested that Warren should campaign. However, Warren repeatedly told supporters that she would not run. She threw her support behind the Democrat Hillary Clinton, who eventually lost to Republican Donald Trump.

Elizabeth Warren formally launched her presidential campaign on February 9, 2019. She called on voters to fight the "rigged system that props up the rich ... and kicks dirt on everyone else."



On January 19, 2020, The New York Times editorial board revealed its choice in the Democratic race. For the first time ever, it was a split decision that went to Elizabeth Warren and Amy Klobuchar.

### **Why Warren Could Win**

From the earliest stages of the Democratic race, Warren has been called a frontrunner. Her fundraising numbers have steadily increased. She has raised the second-highest amount of money, behind only Bernie Sanders. She has also received attention for her ability to engage young voters, a demographic that is becoming more politically present in recent elections. Her political ideas have also become known as some of the most detailed and thorough political plans among all of the Democratic nominees. The phrase "Warren's got a plan for that" has even turned into a meme.



### **Why Warren Could Lose**

In 2012, newspaper reports broke out that Warren's longstanding claims to have Native American ancestry could be false. During a 2017 event for Navajo code talkers, President Trump criticized Warren and referred to her as "Pochahontas." In 2018, Warren released DNA results to prove that she had a small amount of Native American ancestry. However, the release was widely criticized for conflating DNA results with tribal heritage. Warren has since reached out to the Cherokee community and apologized.

Warren has been attacked most often for her lack of electability. Other Democratic nominees have accused her of representing the college-educated elite. They say her progressive platform will not reach Democrats and independents who want less change.

Just before the first debate in 2020, Warren claimed that fellow Democrat Bernie Sanders told her that no woman could beat Donald Trump in the upcoming elections. The claim has strongly divided voters and volunteers between the two progressive candidates.