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April 2024

TERRORISM

SPACEX STARSHIP

US ELECTION

EURO 2024

WORKSHEETS

Starship to Orbit

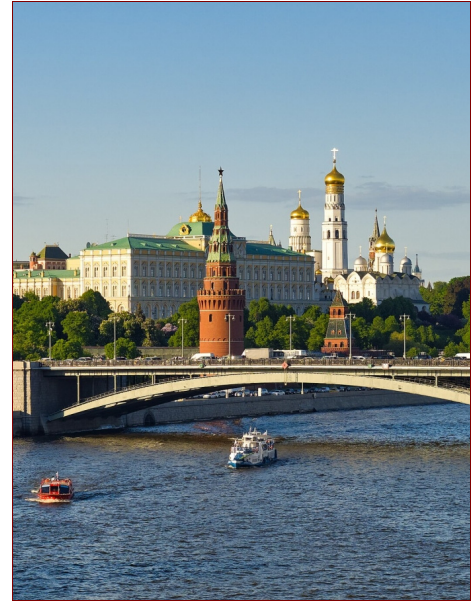


(Photo: SpaceX)

SpaceX plans to make the human race a 'multi-planetary species'. Starship's third test flight was a step towards that goal.

For more, see pages 6, 7 and 8 of this issue

Moscow Terror



(Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Alexxx1979)

The 22nd of March is a day that will never be forgotten by Muscovites or by Russia. A terrorist attack on a concert hall left more than 140 dead and many others wounded.

The hunt is now on for all of those responsible for the attack.

For more, see pages 3, 4 and 5

**Also
in
this
issue**

Election Interview — former US gun control activist and blogger shares her thoughts on US Election 2024

EURO 2024 Qualification Complete — three final play-off matches filled the last places in Groups A-F

Bonus archive article — US Election from the year 2000: 'Ralph Nader: the Best man for the Job?'

ST INFORMATION

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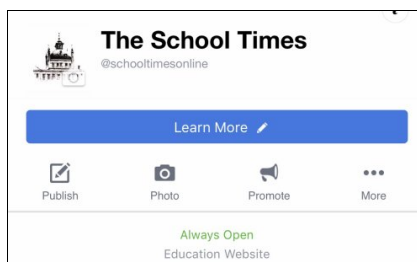
Established in 1994



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International
2024

From our Archives, April 2000

Our April 2000 issue included two audio interviews recorded on location in England. In those pre-Zoom and pre-Skype days, our audio interviews were done face-to-face, in person. Our first (rather windy) interview was with Kevin Charles who worked for Hoverspeed in Dover Harbour. Our second interview was with Lawrence Chaster, caretaker of the Biggin Hill Memorial and the 'Battle of Britian Chapel', just south of London. Other articles in the issue were, 'The Dresden Project', about the rebuilding of Frauenkirche which was destroyed during the Allied terror bombing of the city during World War II. Our final article was, 'Whatever Happened to Childhood?'. It was about the life children face in modern Western societies. The innocence of childhood being replaced by a life in institutions, and where emotional problems are treated with drugs rather than with personal care.



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WAR & CONFLICT

TERRORISM

Terrorist Attack in Moscow

**MP3 AUDIO TEXT**

MARCH 22nd was a typical Friday night in Moscow. The city looked like any other European capital, crowded with people on a night out at the end of the working week. Over at the Krasnogorsk district on the Western outskirts of Moscow, a rock concert was about to begin. The band, called Picnic, from St. Petersburg, were getting ready to perform. Hundreds of fans were making their way to the concert hall for the 8pm start.

The Crocus City Hall is part of a huge site called 'Crocus City'. It includes a large shopping mall and restaurants. Unknown to the excited guests, a group of four men were about to commit a horrific terrorist attack. These men were armed with military assault rifles and flammable liquids. They wanted to commit mass murder of innocent Russian civilians.



(Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Leokand)

A virtual memorial candle to the victims of the mass murder at the Crocus Concert Hall appeared on video screens in Russia

‘Unknown to the excited guests, a group of four men were about to commit a horrific terror attack.’

As we now know, more than 140 people were killed in the terrorist attack. Many others were wounded. It was a senseless act, but it was well planned. Those who took part had been photographed [at the site] weeks before by security cameras. The car that the terrorists arrived in, a white Renault, was also their getaway car.

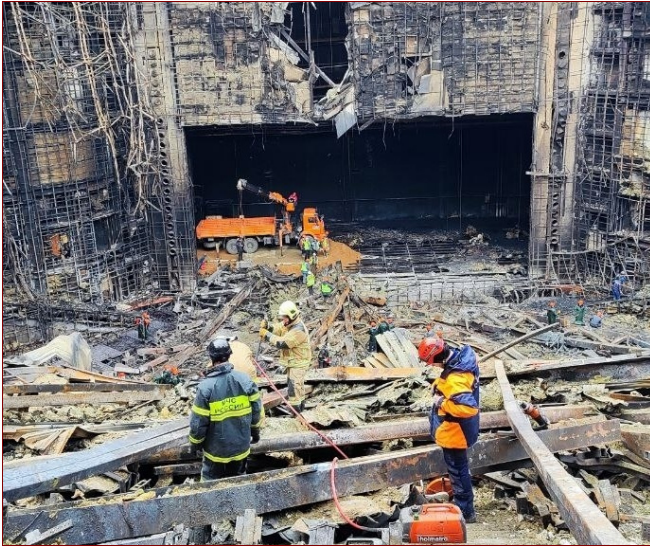
‘...the Russian security services tracked the attackers. Once it became clear that they were fleeing to Ukraine, they were stopped and arrested.’

However, the Russian security services tracked the attackers. Once it became clear they were fleeing to Ukraine, they were stopped and arrested.

All that is known at the moment is that the terrorists were paid to carry out the attack. They admitted to being paid 500,000 Rubles (about 5,000 Euros). They had already received half the amount and were on their way to collect the final payment.

continued on page 4

WAR & CONFLICT



(Photo: Wikimedia Commons/gov.ru)

The fire started by the attackers caused massive destruction

Although the four are connected to ‘Jihadists’, the Russians find it unusual that they were ‘paid assassins’. Jihadists usually act from other motives than money.

The fact that they were fleeing to Ukraine, has led Russia to seek those who were behind the violent events at Crocus City Hall. It is known that groups related to ISIS have been in Ukraine fighting the Russians since 2022. The investigation now focuses on who recruited the shooters; who trained them; who supplied the weapons, and who paid them.

The four attackers are talking. Detectives in Moscow are putting together a picture of who is behind the attack. If it is the Ukrainians, no one in Russia will be surprised. Ukraine has already proudly admitted to murdering three journalists and several other people in Russia. One of them was the

young writer and journalist Daria Dugina.

Of course, almost nothing happens in Ukraine without the permission of NATO countries — mainly the US and UK. If, as the Russians suspect, Western countries had a hand in the Moscow attack, there will, as the saying goes, ‘be hell to pay’. □

➤ 444 words
2,128 characters
(1¼ DK normalside)

For WORDS and ‘Questions on the text’ go to page 5 ➔

See also Worksheet 1

For more on this topic see, *The School Times*, January 2015 (The Bravest of the Brave: Charlie Hebdo); January 2016 (Global Terrorism: Who’s Pulling the Strings?)

The Moscow Grid

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

Find the following words in the grid above:
BAND, KRASNOGORSK, MOSCOW, RUSSIA, TERROR, UKRAINE, WAR, WESTERN

Jumbled Words

1. Popular music group

➤ C I N C I P

--	--	--	--	--	--

2. Liquids that catch fire are said to be this

➤ B E L L A M A M F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. Currency used in Russia

➤ L E R B U

--	--	--	--	--

4. The attackers made their getaway in one

➤ A R C

--	--	--

5. The terrorists carried out their attack for this

➤ O Y N E M

--	--	--	--	--

WAR & CONFLICT

Questions on the text

1. What was about to begin in the Kransogorsk district of Moscow, at 8pm on March 22nd?

A: _____

2. Who was about perform and where were they from?

A: _____

3. What did the terrorists have with them to cause destruction?

A: _____

4. When questioned, what did the terrorists give as their reason for doing what they did?

A: _____

5. Crocus City Hall is part of what?

A: _____

6. Where were the terrorists heading or fleeing to when they were arrested?

A: _____

7. What is the Russian investigation now focusing on?

A: _____

WORDS

admitted – confessed to

be hell to pay – there will be serious trouble; someone will be very angry

district – in the text, zone or area in a city

flammable liquids – liquids that can catch fire (or be ignited) easily

Jihadists – word used in Western countries to describe Muslim extremists or people who carry out acts of terrorism. Of course, it's not only Muslims who carry out acts of terrorism. The current genocide in Gaza is an example of an entire nation terrorising the

Palestinian people. Western countries themselves have invaded countries such as Afghanistan, Libya, and Iraq and terrorised the populations there, through war

outskirts – outer parts of a town or city

paid assassins – paid murderers

perform – in the text, play music

permission – being allowed or permitted to do a particular thing

recruited – hired

senseless act – lacking in feeling or intelligence; meaningless

supplied – provided; gave

to commit – to carry out

tracked – followed

typical night – normal; usual

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SPACE EXPLORATION

Starship Success

Third test flight of world's most powerful rocket

**MP3 AUDIO TEXT**

I think there is a strong humanitarian argument for making life multi-planetary.' So said Elon Musk in 2016.

Musk, who is the founder of SpaceX and Tesla, went on to say that it is vital to safeguard the existence of humanity' — if something catastrophic were to happen.

He was speaking at the International Astronautical Congress that year. Since then, he has worked to make, 'human civilisation multi-planetary' a realistic goal.

Key to this plan is to reduce the cost of spaceflight. To achieve this, re-usability is the key. SpaceX has already achieved reliability and re-usability with its Falcon 9 rocket. It is now attempting to repeat this with the far larger 'Starship'.

On the 14th of March, the third flight of Starship successfully lifted off from Starbase in Texas. Each of the three flights have shown improvement.



(Photo: SpaceX)

Starship consists of the first stage 'Super Heavy' booster and the second stage orbital Starship. The most powerful rocket in the world it has more thrust than the Saturn V Moon rocket

SpaceX has already achieved reliability and re-usability with its Falcon 9 rocket. It is now attempting to repeat this with the far larger 'Starship'.

All 33 Raptor engines on the Super Heavy booster first stage started up successfully. They continued to work perfectly until separation.

Starship's second stage separated from the first stage booster, as planned. Following this separation, the Super Heavy booster successfully turned round and headed back towards a point in the Gulf of Mexico. 'Super Heavy' got to within 500 metres of landing before it was lost.

Starship's six second stage Raptor engines all started successfully. They powered the vehicle to near orbital speed, almost 27,000 kilometres per hour. This was another first. While coasting in space, some tests were conducted on board, most of which were successful.

Starship then re-entered the atmosphere. Data on heating and 'vehicle control' was received on Earth.

continued on page 7

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Spectacular live TV signals were sent back via Starlink. We saw how the vehicle began to glow bright red, due to the heat. However, it then seemed to lose control. Signals from the spaceship were lost, and Starship broke up high above the Indian Ocean.

Nevertheless, SpaceX described this third test as the most successful yet. The company is already preparing the next Starship and Super Heavy booster vehicles.

Early May is a possible launch date for test flight number four. With each improvement, Elon Musk moves closer to his goal of making the human race 'a multi-planetary species'. □

➡ 360 words
1,845 characters
(1½ DK normalsider)

For 'Questions on the text' go to page 8 ➡

See also *Worksheet 2*

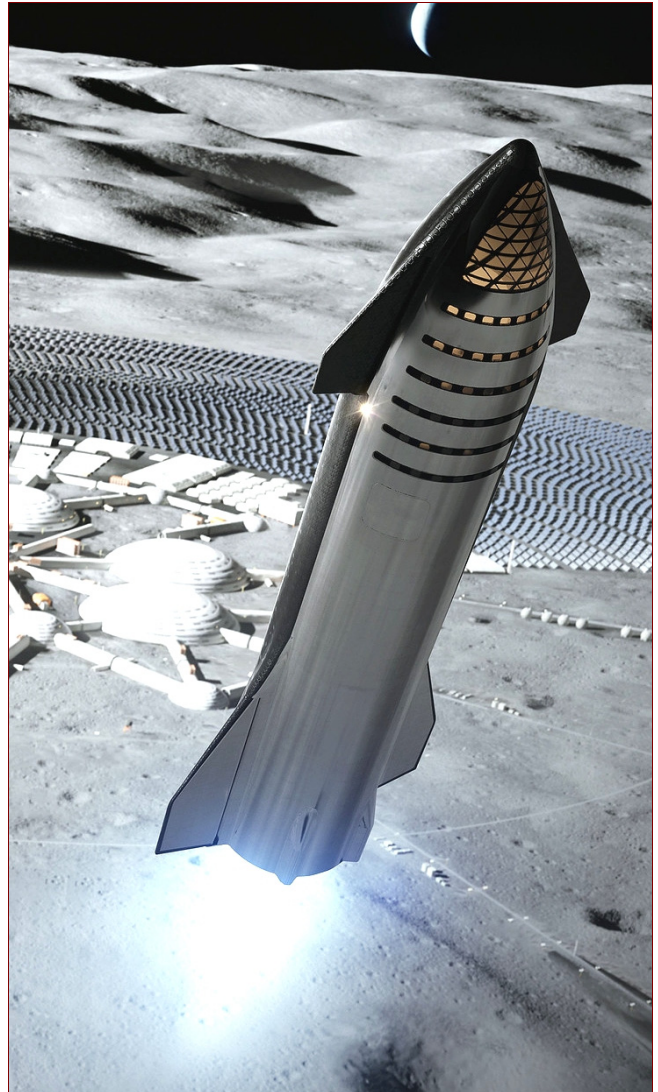
WORDS

- a first** – in the text, first-time achievement
- glow** – shine brightly
- humanity** – in the text, the human race
- humanitarian** – having to do with the well-being and welfare of the human race
- multi-planetary** – existing on more than one planet
- orbital speed** – the speed needed to place a satellite into a path around the Earth in space
- realistic** – achievable; possible
- reduce the cost of** – make less expensive
- reliability** – state of being dependable or trustworthy
- Starlink** – satellite internet service by Elon Musk's SpaceX company
- strong argument** – strong case or reason for
- vital** – critical; extremely important

Famous words

'A future version of Starship 'will travel to other star systems,' Musk vowed, noting that this 'future Starship' would be 'much larger and more advanced' than the current generation.'

Forbes Magazine



(Photo: NASA/SpaceX)

An artist's illustration of a passenger Starship landing at a future Moon base. The final goal is human colonisation of Mars

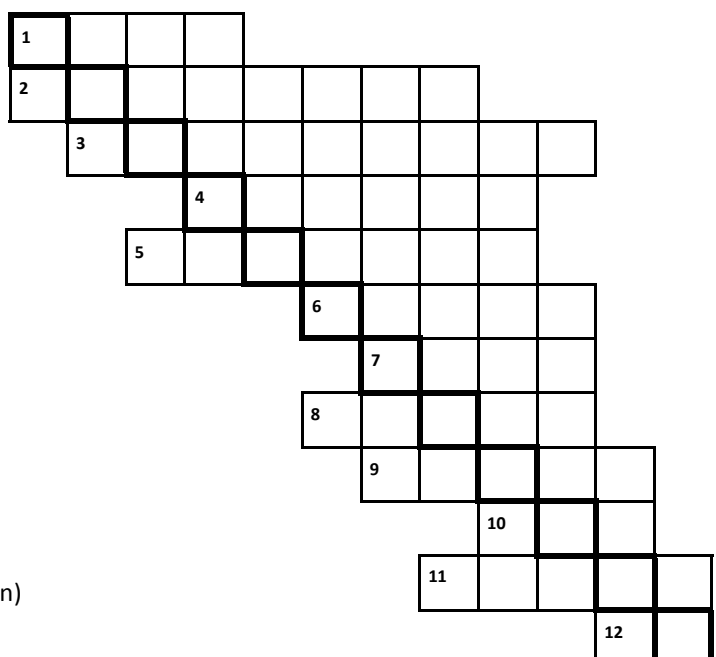
The SpaceX Puzzle

Clues

- 1 For Elon Musk, living on other planets is a 'realistic ...'
- 2 It is vital to 'safeguard the existence of ...'
- 3 Starship is part of the plan to make 'human civilisation multi- ...'
- 4 This was the third test ... of Starship
- 5 The Super Heavy ... has 33 engines
- 6 SpaceX plans to make both the ... stage and second stage re-usable

- 7 Elon who?
- 8 Starship reached 'near orbital ...' on the third test flight
- 9 US state where Starbase launches its Starships
- 10 The second stage has ... Raptor engines
- 11 The third flight of Starship took place on the 14th of ...
- 12 One day it will fly ... the Moon and Mars

Key words (1 Diagonal Down)



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Questions on the text

1. What does Elon Musk believe will help safeguard the existence of humanity?

A: _____

2. What is he trying to reduce the cost of?

A: _____

3. What happened on the 14th of March at Starbase in Texas?

A: _____

4. How many engines does the 'Super Heavy' booster have?

A: _____

5. What speed did Starship's second stage achieve?

A: _____

6. How did SpaceX describe this third test?

A: _____

7. What goal is Elon Musk moving closer to?

A: _____

UNITED STATES

US PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

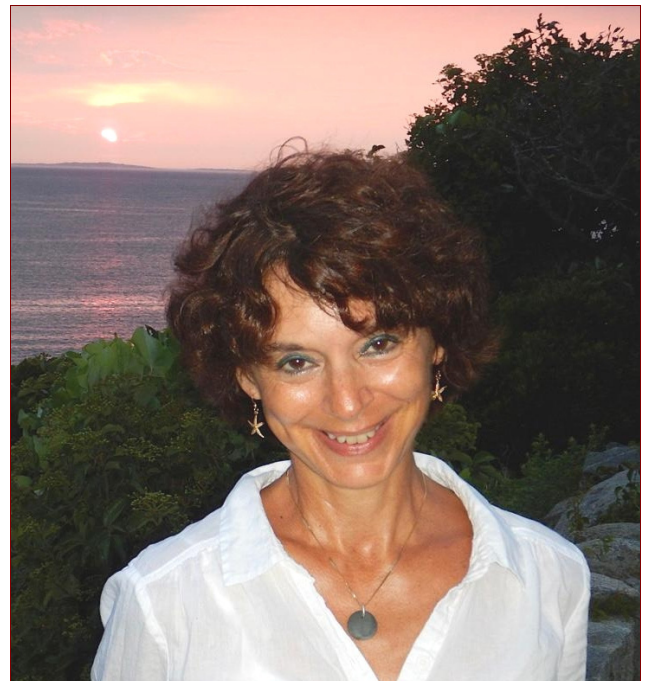
Interview with Leah Gunn Barrett

Widely travelled, former US gun control activist shares her thoughts on the upcoming US presidential election

**MP3 AUDIO TEXT**

ST: Leah, lovely to meet up again. Last time we talked about gun violence in the US. This time, however, I have some questions for you about the 2024 US election. We are still in the 'primary season'. What are primaries, and basically how does the selection process work for a presidential candidate?

Leah: Well, every US state runs a primary, which is to select their candidates for the main political parties, which tend to be the Democratic and Republican parties. And so the primaries for presidential candidates, people will vote on the primary candidates. In the Democratic primary, there's no one standing against Joe Biden, so he will win. And also, I guess you could say in the Republican side too, 'cause it's pretty much clear that Donald Trump will be the Republican nominee, barring something unforeseen happening. So the



(Photos: anti-slappconference.info)

Leah Gunn Barrett now lives in Edinburgh, Scotland

primaries can be exciting, this year they're not. Because it's sort of a foregone conclusion who the candidates from each of the big parties is going to be. And once the primaries have finished, then you have the candidates for the general election who will square off in November. So essentially that's how it works.

ST: Could candidates chosen in these primaries be rejected at the party convention? For example, there is talk of Biden withdrawing and another candidate being parachuted in.

Leah: Technically, yes. You're right, that there's been a lot of speculation about Joe Biden's age, and his mental capacities. I think a lot of people
continued on page 10

US Elections '24

UNITED STATES

question whether he has the capability to really hold the highest office in the United States. I personally don't believe he is mentally equipped to handle the job. I don't think he ever really was. He's suffering from, I guess, call it what it is, dementia. He's an elderly man. He's got a poor memory. And I think it's pretty scary to think that he's making decisions that impact, you know, millions of people, not only in the United States, but around the world. So yes, I think it's entirely possible that the Democratic Party will panic and realize, especially with the current wars going on in Ukraine, and, I'm not gonna call it a war in Gaza. It's not a war, it's a genocide the United States is supporting. Democrats are now panicking about Biden's election prospects in November.

ST: Independent candidates, like Green Party candidate Jill Stein, have a hard time. Does RFK Jr — Robert F. Kennedy Jr, sorry, have a

chance this time round? Or are his chances, as with all candidates, limited by the amount of money he receives?

Leah: The way that the president is selected is, it favours the main political parties. So it's extremely hard for a candidate from a third party. We saw that with Ralph Nader back in 2000, Jill Stein and previous elections as well for the Green Party, to actually gain traction. And I think that RFK Jr's going to have the same problem. What he could do is, some people see him as a spoiler — you know, taking votes away from either Trump or Biden — depending on, on the issue. But I don't see him actually winning the contest. And also I think I would question the whole voting system in the United States. It's not been modernized, upgraded. I think there are lots of questions as to how fair it actually is, and how easy it is to be 'hacked', essentially, not by Russia, but perhaps by the US Security state.

ST: We hear the word 'Unaparty' used a lot. What does it mean, Unaparty?

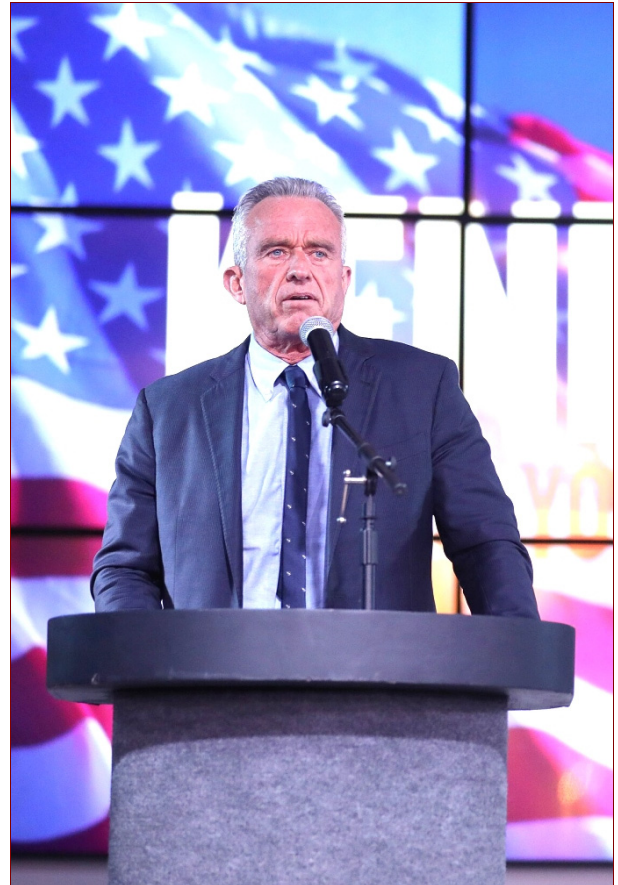
Leah: In essence, it means that the two parties have become

nearly indistinguishable from each other on the big major issues. And you see this in the United States, clearly. It's really why the American people still don't have the things they've been wanting, for decades. Take, for example, a national health service. That still isn't in place. You have something called 'Obamacare'. It's basically based on private insurance. And medical costs are the number one cause of personal bankruptcy still, in the United States.

continued on page 11

(Photo: G. Flakus/VOA)

Jill Stein (right) runs as a 'third party' candidate. Here she is in 2016 with her running mate, Ajumu Baraka



(Photo: Gage Skidmore)

Robert F Kennedy Jr is running as an independent candidate, having been 'frozen out' of the Democratic Party by supporters of Joe Biden. He may become a 'spoiler' candidate

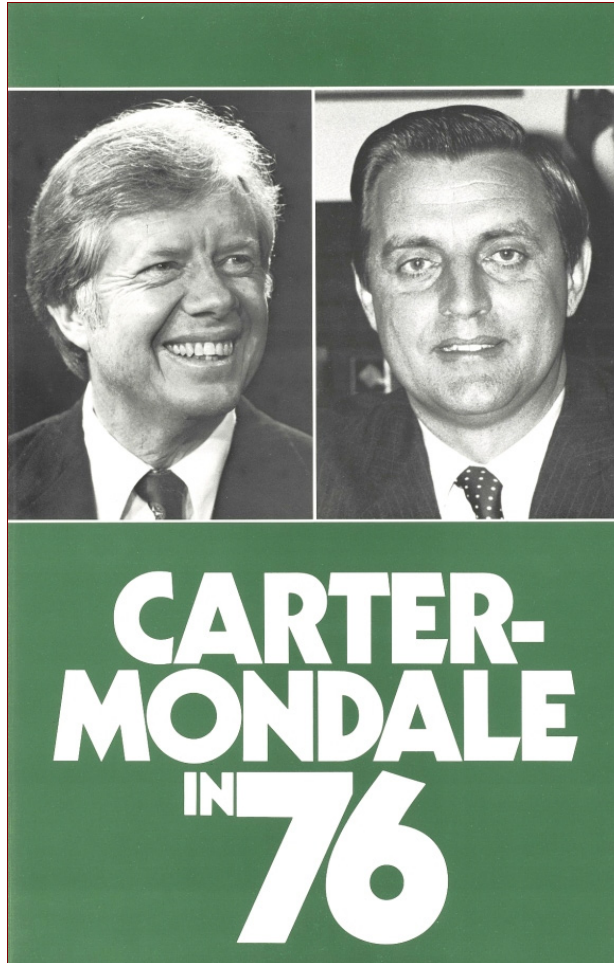


UNITED STATES

And none of these issues ever really get addressed by the politicians. They talk about them, pay 'lip service' to them during the campaigns. The reason for that, the factor of money in politics, is if you have a lot of money, you have a louder voice. And that's what we're seeing — the people with big money, and they tend to be, you know, billionaires, running big corporations.

‘...the factor of money in politics, is if you have a lot of money, you have a louder voice.’

So you get special interests, providing money to the candidates and to the parties. A special interest would be, for example, the 'Military Industrial Complex', the five big defence companies that are profiting from the conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine right now. So... and the American people who are increasingly waking up to this fact, and despite the fact that the media is very much on the side of the government, because



(Photo: Jimmy Carter Campaign Committee)
In 1976, Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale were the Democratic candidates for president and vice-president, they

that's controlled by corporate interests as well. So it's hard to find accurate information. But despite that, Americans are waking up to the fact of what's happening in Gaza, especially young Americans, and increasingly also in Ukraine, realizing the Ukraine war is lost. Why are we sending billions and billions of dollars to a foreign country when Americans are suffering?

ST: Leah, can you as an American abroad, vote in the US election?

Leah: Yes, I can. I still have my American citizenship. I can only vote in federal elections,

which means I can vote for President, and I can vote for my member of the House of Representatives and my Senate representative. So yes, I can.

ST: Can you remember the very first time you cast your vote in a US election?

Leah: Absolutely! Yeah, I do remember that. It was 1976. I was a freshman in university. And that year it was Jimmy Carter. Jimmy Carter prevailed and he served one term as president.

ST: Leah, there's talk of people in the US being

more divided than ever. A recent poll found that 43% of Americans believe there could be a civil war in the United States within the next 10 years. Do you find that believable?

Leah: I suppose it depends on how you define 'civil war'. Would people actually take up arms against each other? Or is it more likely that a state, such as Texas or California, will just say, you know, 'To heck with this, we're fed up with the federal government not, in the case of Texas, policing the border with Mexico. We're getting all these illegal immigrants flooding in and taking jobs from Americans.' And, you know, that's one of the jobs of the federal government is to protect its borders the, the nation's borders. And, and the Democrats are doing a very bad job under Joe Biden of doing that. Ironically, under Donald Trump, the border was policed much more thoroughly. And we didn't have this flood of immigrants coming in. And so there's always been this feeling amongst particularly large states like Texas that have oil, plenty of land, water, you know, seacoast, 'Hey, we could, we could go alone quite, quite easily. Why are we even part of this union?' So it's almost like a little bit of a hangover from the Civil War in the 19th century. I don't think that's entirely gone away. But I would be a little skeptical that Americans are going to, you know, divide into the 'blue and the gray',
continued on page 12

UNITED STATES

and take up arms against each other.

ST: Another poll mentioned by talk show host Jimmy Dore found that 60% of Americans think the mainstream media is the enemy of the people. What's happened to the traditional trustworthy US media? Or was it ever trustworthy?

‘I remember growing up and listening to Walter Cronkite on the CBS Evening News, and he was one of the most trusted newscasters in the United States.’

Leah: I think at times, yes, it was indeed. I remember growing up and listening to Walter Cronkite on the CBS Evening News, and he was one of the most trusted newscasters in the United States. He started questioning the Vietnam War, for example. And this gets back to why we have sort of a ‘unaparty’, between the Democrats and Republicans. You actually have a media which is almost the same too, spouting the same kinds



(Photo: Kim Iversen Show/YouTube)

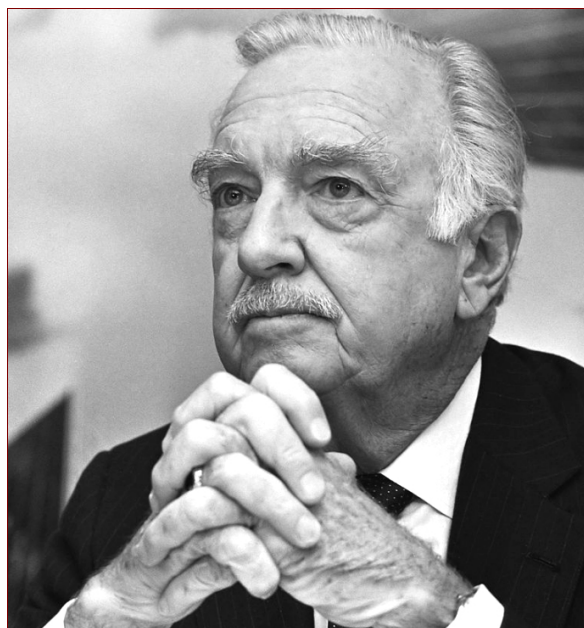
Kim Iversen is one of the many presenters who belong to the ‘alternative media’. Americans have become very skeptical of their mainstream media. Since the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, people in the US have developed a distrust of their media and of their government — a large number do not believe they’re being told the truth

of underlying messages. Who’s funding these organizations... and you’ll find out that they are the same billionaires who are funding the politicians. So that’s the reason I think Americans don’t trust the media ‘cause they know they’re not

getting the real news. They know they’re getting propaganda. The Twitter files revealed when Elon Musk took over Twitter, now known as X, they revealed certainly that the CIA and the FBI were having weekly meetings with the tech executives

(Photo: National Archives)

CBS presenter Walter Cronkite (1916–2009) was a trusted face in the US media. US news presenters do not enjoy the same trust today, in fact, many are seen as completely untrustworthy



at Facebook, at Twitter, and at Google, telling them who to censor. There’s been a mass defection away from the mainstream media, and a lot of these channels are suffering financially. But young people, in particular, are moving towards independent media sources, even to people like *Jimmy Dore*, who’s a comic, a standup comic, or *Joe Rogan*. *Glenn Greenwald* is another one, who’s now an American journalist living in Brazil. There are lots of alternatives to actually get the real news on what’s happening, and people are going there. Tiktok is another good example. The US Congress wants to ban TikTok, because the Israel lobby is pressuring them, because young people are watching TikTok and they can see what’s happening in Gaza.

continued on page 13

UNITED STATES

They can see the genocide unfolding in real time, which turns them against the state of Israel. And the ‘Israel lobby’ is very concerned by that. So they think that by banning TikTok, they’ll be able to bring young people, young American people to like Israel. Again, I think they’re deluding themselves, but that’s, that’s the logic that’s driving the banning of TikTok.

ST: At which previous election in recent times, is probably the most memorable or significant for the United States?

Leah: I remember very clearly when Al Gore was running against George W. Bush [in 2000], and I was devastated when Gore lost. You know, he was declared the winner election night. And then the votes in Florida were, I think, actually stolen, ‘cause his brother was governor of Florida at the time, Jeb Bush. And I like to think that Gore would not have invaded Iraq and wreaked all the havoc that we’re now dealing with today in the Middle East. But, you know, I might be wrong. He could have.

ST: Leah, thank you so much for your time and your insights. I really appreciate your time and, and your thoughts on this. Finally, who at this stage, who looks the likely winner in November? Will it be a Democrat or will it be a Republican or perhaps, unthinkably, an independent candidate?

Leah: Yeah, that’s a tough one, Peter. But if the United States continues on its current path in Ukraine — continues to supply money, Ukrainians continue to die. Ukraine continues to lose territory. And certainly in Gaza, if they allow Israel to get away with the genocide of over 2 million Palestinians, which looks likely — then I think that we will see another Trump presidency.

ST: Well, there’s a prediction, and I’ll make note of it. From Copenhagen to Edinburgh, thank you so much, Leah Gunn Barrett.

Leah: You’re welcome, Peter. Thank you. It’s my pleasure. ☐

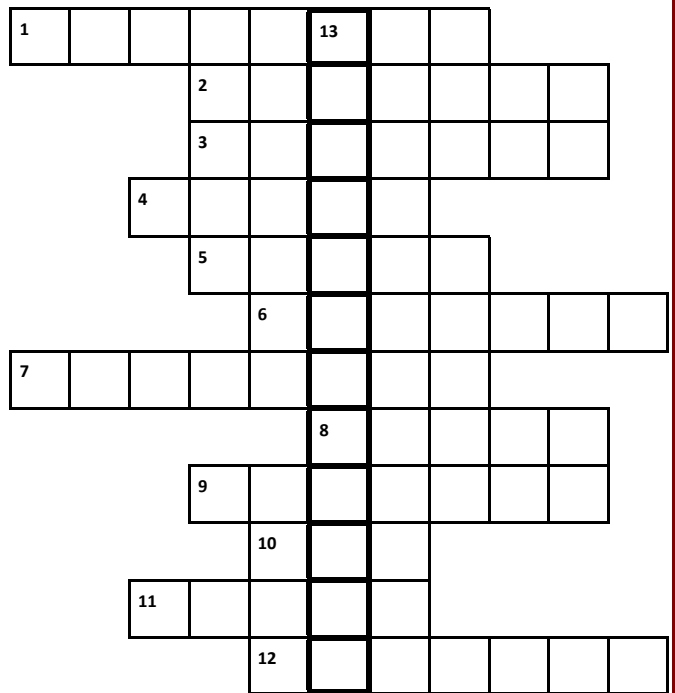
↻ 1,909 words
8,993 characters
(6¼ normalsider)

For Questions on the text go to page 14 →

- WORDS**
barring any – if there are no unexpected events
blue and the gray – during the US Civil War (1861-65) the Union Army wore blue uniforms and the Confederate Army wore gray uniforms
cancel – stop or prevent the views of certain people being heard; suppression of free speech
CIA – Central Intelligence Agency
corporate – having to do with large businesses
deluding themselves – lying to or deceiving themselves
devastated – deeply upset
FBI – Federal Bureau of Investigation
foregone conclusion – something that’s already been decided
freshman – US word for first-year student at college or university
gain traction – become popular and be accepted

WORDS continue on page 14 →

The Election Puzzle



Clues

- 1 Presidential election month
- 2 Every state runs a ... to select their candidates
- 3 Leah describes Biden as an ‘... man’ with a poor memory
- 4 Jill Stein is a presidential candidate for the ‘... Party’
- 5 Leah says that if you have a lot of this you have a ‘louder voice’
- 6 Surname (not Christian name) of Jimmy Carter’s ‘running mate’ in 1976
- 7 Word used in the US to describe two political parties that have become ‘indistinguishable’ from each other
- 8 One of two large US states that Leah mentions who might want to ‘go it alone’ (in other words, become independent)
- 9 Young Americans, especially, are discovering what’s really happening in Gaza and ... from independent media
- 10 The last time we interviewed Leah, the topic was ‘... violence’ (see *The School Times* Nov & Dec 2022)
- 11 Up to 60% of Americans no longer trust the US mainstream media. In fact, they think it’s the ‘... of the people’!
- 12 Leah describes how ‘... interests’ are giving money to candidates and parties. This means that those with money have greater influence in the US

Key words (13 Down)

(Who will it be?)

UNITED STATES

Questions on the text

1. Why does Leah say that the 'primaries' are not very exciting this year?

A: _____

2. She says Biden is not the right person to hold the highest job in the US. Why isn't he?

A: _____

3. If Robert F Kennedy Jr becomes a 'spoiler' candidate, what effect might he have on the election?

A: _____

4. What negative effect do 'medical costs' have on ordinary Americans? What are they the cause of?

A: _____

5. When it comes to the mainstream media, what are Americans 'waking up to'?

A: _____

6. Leah doesn't think there will be a civil war in the US. But what might some of the larger states do?

A: _____

7. Why does the US Congress want to ban TikTok? What are young people seeing on this social media?

A: _____

WORDS (continued from page 13)

get away with – do something wrong without being punished

indistinguishable from – two things which are so much alike that it's difficult to know which is which

Israel lobby – pro-Israel organisations

likely winner – probable winner

Military Industrial Complex – the extremely powerful military establishment in the US. Major industries that supply jobs and produce all kinds of weapons. It has a huge influence on US politics and politicians

newscaster – news presenter

pay lip-service to – to say you agree with something, but do nothing to support it

prediction – forecast; what someone thinks will happen

propaganda – information (often from a government) that is biased and meant to make people believe in a political cause or point of view

prospects – chances

special interests – individuals or groups who try to make politicians and lawmakers act in their favour, often by using money

spoiler candidate – candidate who takes votes away from one of the other parties thereby 'spoiling' (ruining) their chances

spouting – mouthing-off; speaking a lot, in a way that annoys people

trustworthy – honest; reliable

underlying message – in the text, the real meaning of something that is said

US security state – organisations created to protect the state (however, these organisations can also be misused to control or censor the people)

wreaked havoc – created chaos; destroyed

SPORTS NEWS

FOOTBALL

Poland, Ukraine and Georgia Secure Places at EURO 2024

Three teams qualify for remaining places at EURO 2024 after winning their play-off final matches



MP3 AUDIO TEXT

THE 24 teams to take part at EURO 2024 in Germany, have now been confirmed. There was play-off final joy for fans of Georgia, Poland, and Ukraine – but disappointment for Greece, Wales, and Iceland, who missed out on the chance to compete at Euro 2024 finals.

As usual, the margins between winning and losing were very close. For Greece and Wales it was penalty shoot-out heartbreak. Both teams lost narrowly, after extra time and penalties. Greece losing to Georgia, and Wales losing to Poland.

For Iceland though, it was a case of what might have been. Leading at half-time, the men from the volcanic island nation looked on course for a sensational victory. A stunning opener on the half-hour, from Albert Gudmundsson, had the visitors in control at the break, after Roman Yaremchuk's goal for Ukraine was disallowed for offside.



(Photo: Wikimedia Commons/mudafildir)

After most teams had qualified for Euro 2024 there were still three places 'up-for-grabs'. These were decided, through an extra qualification round and the 24 national teams are now complete

‘For Iceland though, it was a case of what might have been. Leading at half-time, the men from the volcanic island nation looked on course for a sensational victory.’

In the second half, Ukraine dug deep, and goals from Viktor Tsygankov, Mykhailo Mudryk sealed victory. The match was played in Warsaw due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

What this all means is that Groups A to F are complete. The finals now await.

There are still a number of friendly matches to be played before the tournament begins. One of these brings together

Scandinavian rivals Denmark and Sweden. Teams from the neighbouring countries will meet in Copenhagen on the 5th of June, which also happens to be Danish ‘Constitution Day’.

In the head-to-head, Sweden lead with 43 wins to Denmark's 39 – with 17 matches ending in a draw. However, on home soil, the Danes will no doubt be hoping to improve their head-to-head record!

continued on page 16

SPORTS NEWS



UEFA EURO 2024 is taking place in Germany this summer, with 23 teams joining the hosts in the finals. UEFA.com introduces the countries who have booked their tickets to the final tournament.

(Photo: uefa.com screenshot)

Of course, friendly matches are of little real importance. The true test will come in Germany, once the tournament kicks off on the 14th of June. In the opening match [in Munich], tournament hosts, Germany, will face Scotland. On paper, it looks as though Germany are favourites to open with a victory. In the past, though, the Germans have been 'slow starters' in major competitions. So the Scots will be hoping to cause an upset.

After all, Scotland is appearing at a major tournament for the first time since 1998. Simply qualifying, after so many disappointments, is a reward in itself. With nothing to lose and already written off, they'll be determined to put on a good show for their loyal fans, known as, the 'Tartan Army'.



↪ 444 words
2,128 characters
(1¼ DK normalside)

For 'Questions on the text' go to page 17 →

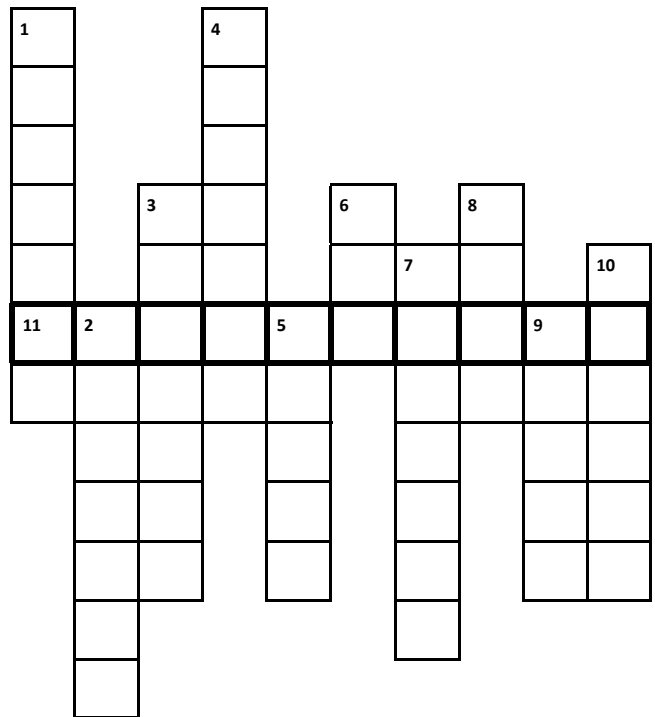
See also Worksheet 3

For more on this topic see, *The School Times*, December 2020 (Heartbreak, History and Heroes); August 2021 (Italian Football Success and Records in Cycling)

WORDS

- a draw** – a game that ends in an even score
- appearing at** – attending; taking part in
- compete** – in the text, take part in; play in
- confirmed** – decided
- disallowed** – ruled out; cancelled
- favourites** – in the text, among the teams tipped to win
- head-to-head** – in the text, meetings between two teams or individuals
- hosts** – those putting or staging an event (in this case, the Germans)
- kicks off** – begins
- lost narrowly** – only by a small amount (for example, in football, by one goal)
- on paper** – in theory; going by past results
- rivals** – in the text, two more or less equal football teams competing in the same region
- sealed victory** – secured the win
- stunning** – hugely impressive
- tartan** – a Scottish woollen cloth or 'plaid' made in check patterns. The word tartan is often used when referring to Scotland or Scots
- written off** – in the text, seen as having no chance

EURO 2024 Puzzle



Clues

1 Two of the three matches were decided by ... kicks

2 The margins between '... and losing' are very close

3 Described as a 'volcanic island nation'

4 Host nation of EURO 2024

5 All 24 national ... are now qualified and ready for the finals

6 There was 'play-off final ...' for fans of Georgia, Poland, and Ukraine

7 In football, goals are often ruled out for this reason

8 The kind of 'starters' the Germans have been in major competitions

9 The Scots will be hoping to cause an ... in the opening match

10 For Iceland, ... , and Wales it's a case of 'better luck next time'

Key words (11 Across)

(The complete number)



SPORTS NEWS

Questions on the text

1. How did qualifying end for Greece and Wales? How were their matches decided?

A: _____

2. In the match between Iceland and Ukraine, which team looked to be on course for a sensational victory?

A: _____

3. Why was the match between Iceland and Ukraine played in Warsaw in Poland?

A: _____

4. What kind of matches are still to be played before the tournament starts in June?

A: _____

5. Which two rivals will meet in Copenhagen on the 5th of June? Who leads in the head-to-head?

A: _____

6. The opening match of Euro 2024 will be played *where* on 14th of June, and between which two teams?

A: _____

7. What, for Scotland, is a 'reward in itself'?

A: _____



The School Times Audio January ~ April 2024



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