

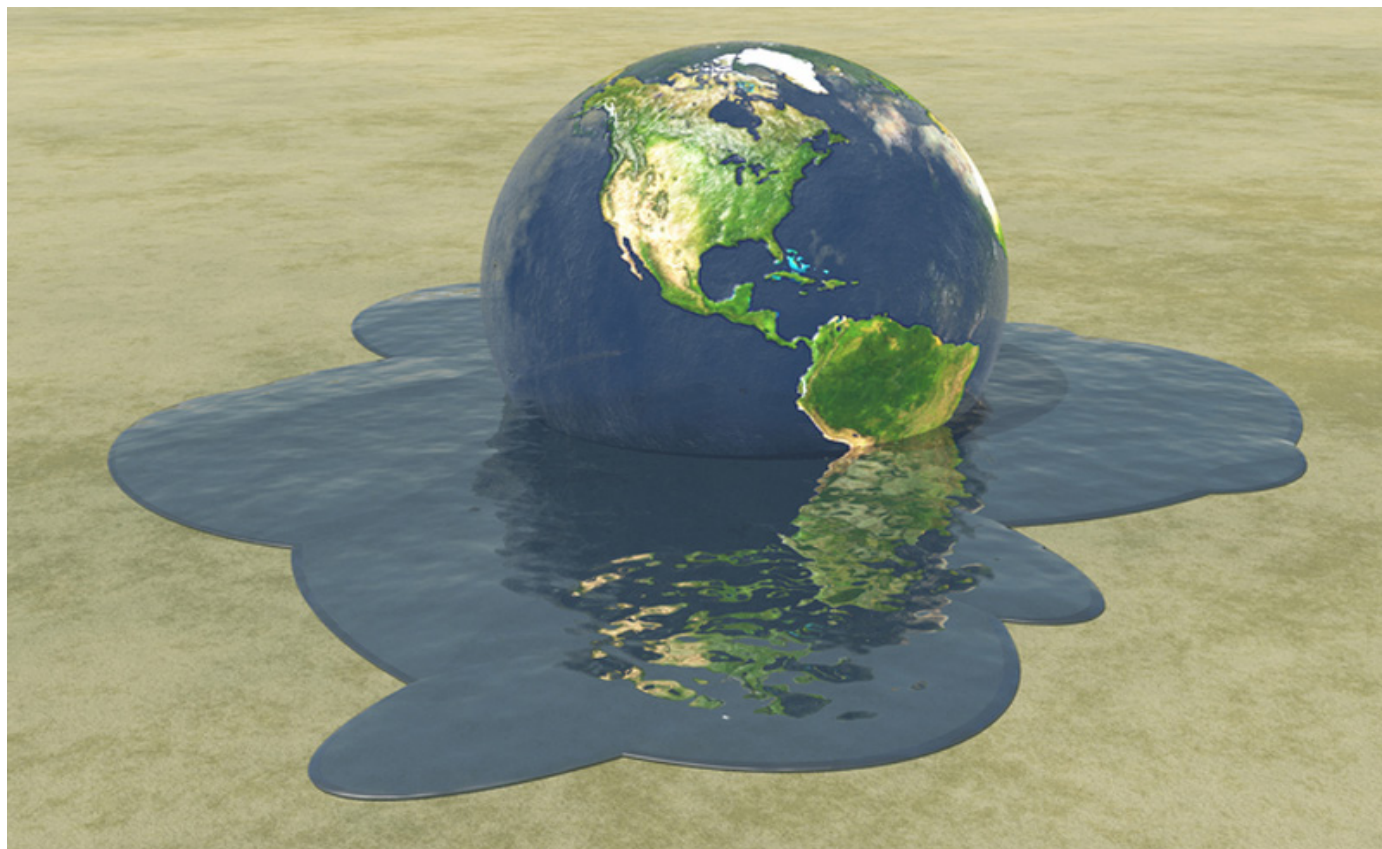
CLASSROOM READY Monthly News

NATIONAL

FOR GRADES 5, 6 & 7

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SEPTEMBER 2023



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NATIONAL

Prime Minister Trudeau Shuffles Cabinet



On July 26, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made major changes to his cabinet—signalling a new start for his government.

In Canada, the cabinet is made up of people, called ministers, who run major government departments. They work with the prime minister to set **policies** and priorities for those departments. For example, the finance minister is responsible for setting the government's budget and economic policies. The minister of national defence makes decisions on how the Canadian military is run.

Cabinet ministers are chosen by the prime minister, usually from among elected Members of Parliament (MPs) from his or her political party.

The prime minister chooses a cabinet right after an election, but may choose to change the cabinet in between elections. This is commonly

called a “cabinet shuffle.” This can be done to shake things up or signal a changing focus for the government.

Observers believe the current shuffle is Prime Minister Trudeau's way of placing greater emphasis on economic priorities for the government. They think he is responding to Canadians' unhappiness over the rising cost of living.

For the current cabinet shuffle, Prime Minister Trudeau has brought in seven new faces. This means seven people lost their positions as cabinet ministers.

Notable changes include Anita Anand moving from national defence to become president of the **Treasury Board**. Treasury Board is a major responsibility as the government attempts to control spending and bring down **inflation**. Bill Blair takes over defence. Sean Fraser

moves from immigration to take over as the minister of housing, infrastructure, and communities. Affordable housing is seen as a priority for the government heading into the next election.

Four ministers were not shuffled, including Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland and Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly. ★

**DID YOU KNOW**

When he was elected prime minister in 2015, Trudeau set a standard of having a close-to-equal number of male and female cabinet ministers. The current cabinet consists of 20 men and 19 women.

To view videos, go to:
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/qevm>

Video**WORD POWER**

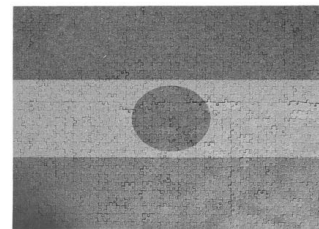
POLICIES: A set of ideas, plans, or guidelines to guide decisions, actions, and outcomes in an organization

TREASURY BOARD: The organization that oversees spending and operation within the government

INFLATION: The general increase in the costs of goods and services over time

INTERNATIONAL

Coup in Niger



In late July, a group of soldiers in Niger announced that they have overthrown the country's government in a **military coup**.

Niger is a country located in West Africa. It has a population of 25 million people and is a leading producer of **uranium**. Since 1960, Niger's government has flipped back and forth several times between democracy and military rule.

In 2010, Niger adopted a new **constitution** and returned to democratic rule. Niger's current president, Mohamed Bazoum, was elected in February 2021.

On July 26, a group of soldiers surrounded the presidential palace. They detained President Bazoum within the palace and announced that they are now in power.

The group of soldiers calls

itself the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Country. Among the soldiers are some high-ranking members of Niger's military, including General Moussa Salaou Barmou, head of Niger's special forces. The group announced that Niger's borders would be closed and a curfew would be imposed.

The soldiers say the reasons for the coup involve security, social, and economic problems in the country, which they blame on the government. Some observers in Niger say the soldiers were motivated by the fact President Bazoum was planning to fire a general named Omar Tchiani.

Members of the government say they defy the coup. Niger's Foreign Affairs Minister called on Niger citizens to stand up and say no to the takeover. Hundreds of people did take to the

streets of Niger's capital city, Niamey, but the Niger army has so far supported the coup.

Western countries, including Canada, have condemned the soldiers' actions and have called for President Bazoum's immediate release. France and the European Union have stopped all financial support to Niger, which is one of the world's poorest countries. ★

**DID YOU KNOW**

There have been four military coups in Niger since it gained independence from France in 1960.

To view videos, go to:
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/qevm>

Video**WORD POWER**

MILITARY COUP: An illegal attempt to overthrow the government using force

URANIUM: An element that is used to make nuclear energy

CONSTITUTION: The basic principles, rules, and laws that determine how a country is governed

INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS

Orange Shirt Day



September 30 is Orange Shirt Day. This is a day when people are encouraged to wear an orange T-shirt to work and school. Orange Shirt Day was inspired by the story of Phyllis Webstad.

Residential schools were boarding schools supported by the Canadian government from the 1870s to 1996. Most of the schools were run by churches. The schools were used to **assimilate** Indigenous children into non-Indigenous Canadian society. Children were separated from their families and forbidden to practice their cultural traditions and languages.

Phyllis Webstad has her own residential school story. In 1973, at the age of six, she was living with her grandmother on the Dog Creek Reserve in British Columbia. She was about to attend St. Joseph Mission Residential

School.

Her grandmother didn't have much money, but they saved up so Phyllis could wear a new outfit on the first day of school. Phyllis picked out a bright orange shirt with string laced up in the front. She was very excited to go to school.

On the first day of school, she was forced into different clothing. Her bright orange shirt was taken away and she never saw it again. Since then, the colour orange brings back the memories of how her feelings didn't matter and the feeling that she was worth nothing.

Phyllis now understands how that feeling of worthlessness has affected how she has lived her life for many years. Decades later, Phyllis shared her story to help others understand.

The orange shirt became a symbol of awareness of what happened at residential

schools, and of support for healing and **reconciliation**. It has also become a symbol that every child matters.

The purpose of Orange Shirt Day is to make people aware of how residential schools impacted those who attended, as well as their families and communities. ★



DID YOU KNOW

September 30 is also the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It is a day for all Canadians to remember and reflect upon the **legacy** of residential schools.

To view videos, go to:
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/qevm>

Video



WORD POWER

ASSIMILATE: To make a minority group or culture learn and take on the values, behaviour, and culture of the majority

RECONCILIATION: The process of making two people or groups of people friendly again after a conflict or bad experience,

LEGACY: The long-lasting impact of particular events or actions that took place in the past

ENVIRONMENT

UN Says Era of “Global Boiling” Is Here



The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, held a **press conference** on July 28. He stated, “Climate change is here. It is terrifying, and it is just beginning.” He added that “The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived.”

Guterres was reacting to data showing the first three weeks of July 2023 to be the hottest period ever recorded. Scientists believe that the temperatures could be the hottest Earth has experienced over the past 120 000 years. There were multiple **heatwaves** across North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Average global temperatures exceeded the 1.5 degrees Celsius (1.5C) **threshold** several times in July.

Guterres says July’s hot temperatures are a warning that the world needs to do

more to cut carbon emissions and switch to renewable energy sources. He called on wealthy nations and political leaders around the world to take action.

Guterres did note that there has been progress, but he said more needs to be done, including a faster change away from fossil fuels like oil and natural gas.

Guterres used the term “global boiling” to indicate that temperature increases have moved the Earth into a period of more intense heatwaves and extreme weather events.

The July heatwaves affected Canada, including many communities in the far north. Scientists note that global warming is occurring fastest in the polar regions of the Earth, including in Canada’s arctic.

This year’s temperatures have been magnified by El

Niño, a natural pattern of wind and water that results in warmer temperatures around the globe. ★



DID YOU KNOW

The 1.5C figure compares today’s average temperatures to what they were in the 19th century—before factories and human activities began pumping large amounts of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Scientists believe the Earth’s average global temperature can’t increase more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above the average temperature during the 19th century if the worst effects of climate change are to be prevented.

To view videos, go to:
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WORD POWER

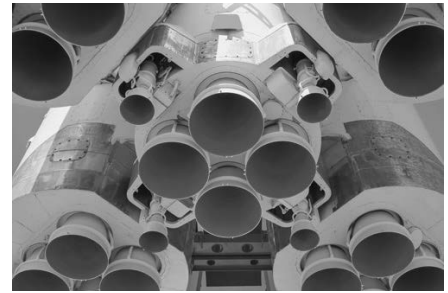
PRESS CONFERENCE: An interview given to journalists by a person or organization to make an announcement or answer questions

HEATWAVE: A prolonged period of unusually hot weather

THRESHOLD: The point or level at which something begins or changes

FEATURE

First Commercial Flight for Virgin Galactic



In late June, Virgin Galactic launched its first commercial flight, sending three paying guests on a trip into space. The flight occurred on Unity, a **rocket plane** designed and built by Virgin Galactic.

Unity doesn't launch from a rocket on the ground. It is carried on another airplane that takes it to about 13 kilometres above the Earth's surface. From there, Unity's powerful engines fire, boosting it up to 85 kilometres above the Earth's surface. That is considered the edge of space. At that distance, passengers experience **weightlessness**.

On board the flight were three military officers and scientists from Italy. They used the flight to conduct scientific experiments on how weightlessness affects the mixing of liquids and the behaviour of biological cells.

The flight lasted 72 minutes, but the rocket plane was in space for only a few minutes. At that time, the passengers were able to unbuckle from their seats and float weightless in the ship's cabin. They also had a view of space and the Earth below.

Virgin Galactic is owned by Sir Richard Branson. He started the company back in 2004. Branson's vision is that Virgin Galactic will eventually make space travel a thing ordinary people (who have enough money) can experience and enjoy.

The trip wasn't Unity's first flight into space. It has taken a number of test flights over the past few years, including once carrying Branson into space. This was the first trip involving paying customers.

A trip is expensive. Ticket prices range from \$250 000 to \$450 000 USD per seat. So far, 800 people have booked

flights on the rocket plane. It will take a while for each to have their turn as Unity only carries three to four passengers at a time and can fly about once a month. ★



DID YOU KNOW

Sir Richard Branson made his fortune in the music business, starting the company Virgin Records.

To view videos, go to:
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/qevm>

Video



WORD POWER

ROCKET PLANE: An aircraft that uses a rocket engine for power

WEIGHTLESSNESS: The state of feeling like you are not experiencing gravity, that you can float in air

NATIONAL**Prime Minister Trudeau Shuffles Cabinet**

1. The cabinet is made up of who?

2. Who chooses the cabinet ministers?

3. Why might a cabinet be shuffled?

4. What is the reason for the current shuffle?

5. What are some of the changes that were made?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. Do you think that it was a good time for a cabinet shuffle? Explain your answer.

INTERNATIONAL**Coup in Niger**

1. What has happened in Niger since 1960?

2. What happened on July 26?

3. What are the soldiers' reasons for the coup?

4. How has the government reacted to the coup?

5. How have the people responded?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. Do you think there are reasons why a government should be overthrown? Explain your answer.

INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS**Orange Shirt Day**

1. What inspired Orange Shirt Day?

2. What did Phyllis and her grandmother do before she went to school?

3. What happened on the first day of school?

4. How has the colour orange affected Phyllis since then?

5. The orange shirt has become a symbol for what?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. After reading Phyllis' story, what are your thoughts on what she went through?

ENVIRONMENT**UN Says Era of “Global Boiling” Is Here**

1. To what was Guterres reacting?

2. Which areas had heatwaves?

3. What does Guterres say about July's temperatures?

4. What term did Guterres use? Why?

5. What do scientists believe about the Earth's average global temperature?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. What should governments do to fight climate change?

FEATURE**First Commercial Flight for Virgin Galactic**

1. How does Unity fly into space?

2. Who was on the flight? What did they do?

3. What could the passengers do while the plane was in space?

4. How much does a flight cost?

5. Why will it take a while for the 800 people to have their turn?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. Would you want to go into space? Explain your answer.

Cabinet Ministers

Below is a list of the current cabinet positions.

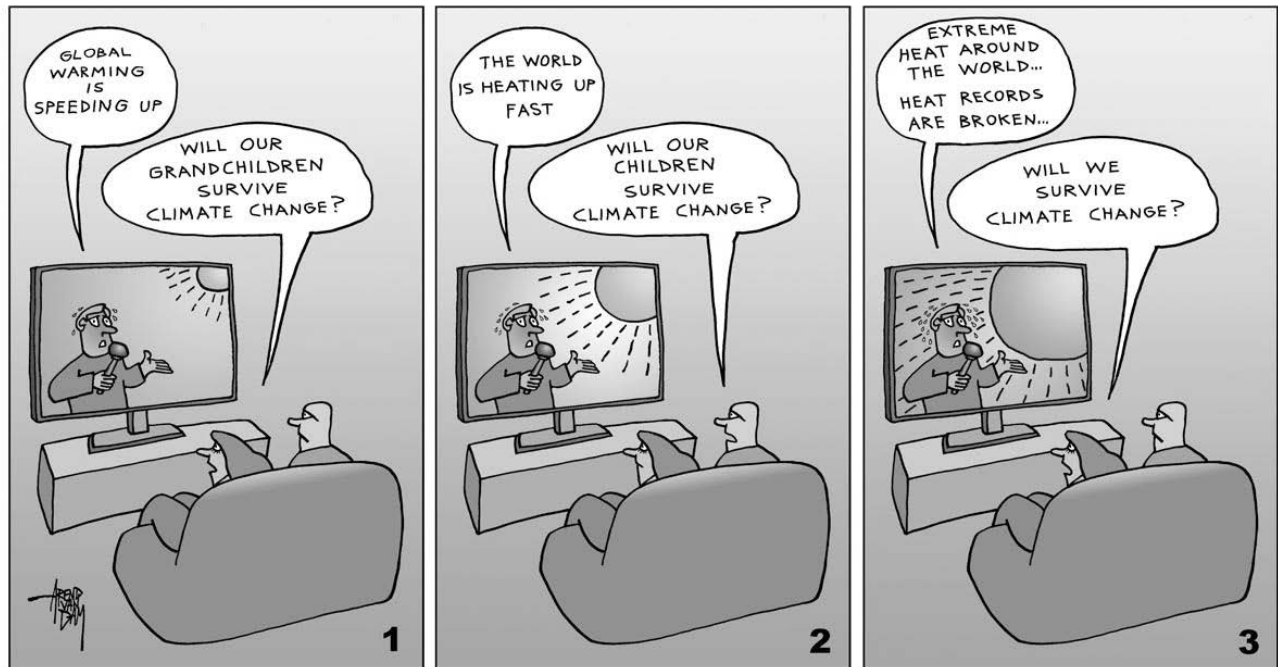
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
President of the Treasury Board
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations
Minister of Citizens' Services
Minister of National Revenue
Minister of National Defence
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and
Official Languages
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
Minister of Public Services and Procurement
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and
Communities
Leader of the Government in the House of Commons
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister
responsible for the Federal Economic
Development Agency for Northern Ontario
Minister of Health
Minister of International Development
Minister of Rural Economic Development and
Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada
Opportunities Agency
Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with
Disabilities
Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions
and Intergovernmental Affairs
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian
Coast Guard

Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Minister of Tourism and Minister responsible for the
Economic Development Agency of Canada for
the Regions of Quebec
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade
and Economic Development
Minister of Labour and Seniors
Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister
of National Defence
Minister of Sport and Physical Activity
Minister of Transport and Quebec Lieutenant
President of the King's Privy Council for Canada
and Minister of Emergency Preparedness and
Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic
Development Agency of Canada
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and
Associate Minister of Health
Minister of Canadian Heritage
Minister of Families, Children and Social
Development
Minister responsible for the Federal Economic
Development Agency for Southern Ontario
Minister of Small Business
Minister of Northern Affairs, Minister responsible
for Prairies Economic Development Canada and
Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern
Economic Development Agency
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

Choose one or two positions from the list and do some research on what the minister does for Canada.

Political Cartoon

A political cartoon uses images to exaggerate an opinion, often in a humorous way. The main purpose of the cartoon is to show you the artist's point of view on a situation.



For each element in the image above, write a point or two about the element or how it relates to the rest of the image.

1. The man on the television

2. The people on the couch

3. Put all of the elements together and explain in your own words what the cartoon is saying.

Map Activity: Niger

1. Locate and label the following countries in capital letters:

NIGER

ALGERIA

BENIN

BURKINA FASO

CHAD

COTE D'IVOIRE

GUINEA

LIBYA

MALI

MAURITANIA

MOROCCO

NIGERIA

SENEGAL

TUNISIA

2. Locate and label the following cities:

Niamey

Abuja

Algiers

Bamako

N'Djamena

Nouakchott

Ouagadougou

Rabat

Tripoli

Tunis

3. Locate and label the following body of salt water:

Mediterranean Sea

4. Create a colour legend for your map with the following:

Niger

Other Countries

Salt Water

5. Draw and label the compass bearing.

6. Label your map:

Niger and Neighbouring Countries

Map Activity: Niger

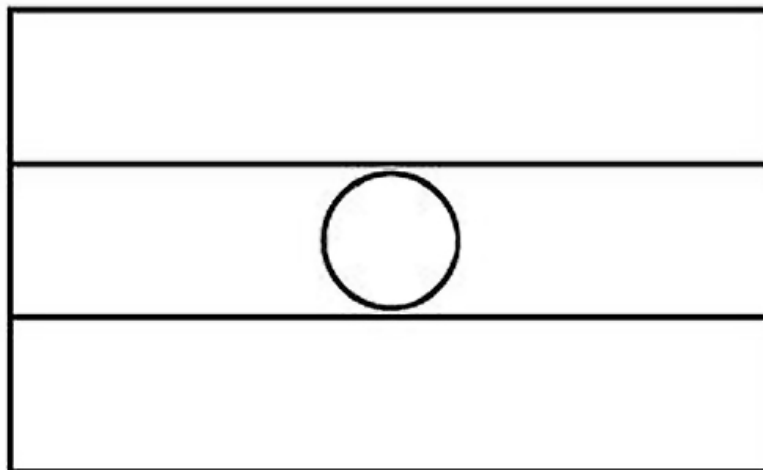


Looking at Niger

Niger is part of the continent of Africa. It is a landlocked country bordered by Algeria, Libya, Chad, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, and Mali. It is located 16 degrees north of the equator, giving it a climate that is mostly hot, dry, and dusty. Niger is slightly smaller than Manitoba at 1 267 000 square kilometres. Niger has a population of 25 396 840 (2023 estimate) and a currency called the Communauté Financière Africaine franc (XOF). It takes about 444 francs to equal one Canadian dollar.

Use the map and the information on this page to answer the following questions.

1. What is the area of Niger? _____
2. What is the population of Niger? _____
3. What is the capital city of Niger? _____
4. What is the currency used in Niger? _____
5. What colours are on the flag of Niger? _____
6. Which countries border Niger? _____
7. Colour the flag as follows:
Three equal horizontal bands of orange (top), white, and green with a small orange disk centred in the white band.



Monthly News Quiz

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU SHUFFLES CABINET

1. In Canada, the _____ is made up of people, called ministers, who run major government departments.
2. Observers believe the current shuffle is a way of placing greater emphasis on what?
A. Foreign policy B. Economic priorities C. Military priorities

COUP IN NIGER

1. On July 26, a group of _____ surrounded the presidential palace.
2. The reason for the coup is security, social, and economic problems in the country.
True False

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

1. On the first day of school, Phyllis' bright orange shirt was taken away and she never saw it again.
True False
2. The orange shirt has become a symbol that every _____ matters.

UN SAYS ERA OF "GLOBAL BOILING" IS HERE

1. Scientists believe that July's temperatures could be the hottest Earth has experienced over the past 2 million years.
True False
2. Guterres used the term "_____ " to indicate that temperature increases have moved the Earth into a period of more intense heatwaves and extreme weather events.

Monthly News Answer Key

Prime Minister Trudeau Shuffles Cabinet

1. The cabinet is made up of who?

In Canada, the cabinet is made up of people, called ministers, who run major government departments. They work with the prime minister to set policies and priorities for those departments.

2. Who chooses the cabinet ministers?

Cabinet ministers are chosen by the prime minister, usually from among elected Members of Parliament (MPs) from his or her political party.

3. Why might a cabinet be shuffled?

This can be done to shake things up or signal a changing focus for the government.

4. What is the reason for the current shuffle?

Observers believe the current shuffle is Prime Minister Trudeau's way of placing greater emphasis on economic priorities for the government. They think he is responding to Canadians' unhappiness over the rising cost of living.

5. What are some of the changes that were made?

Notable changes include Anita Anand moving from national defence to become president of the Treasury Board. Bill Blair takes over defence. Sean Fraser moves from immigration to take over as the minister of housing, infrastructure, and communities.

Coup in Niger

1. What has happened in Niger since 1960?

Since 1960, Niger's government has flipped back and forth several times between democracy and military rule.

2. What happened on July 26?

On July 26, a group of soldiers surrounded the presidential palace. They detained President Bazoum within the palace and announced that they are now in power.

3. What are the soldiers' reasons for the coup?

The soldiers say they have done the coup because of security, social, and economic problems in the country, which they blame on the government.

4. How has the government reacted to the coup?

Members of the government say they defy the coup. Niger's Foreign Affairs Minister called on Niger citizens to stand up and say no to the takeover.

5. How have the people responded?

Hundreds of people did take to the streets of Niger's capital city, Niamey, but the Niger army has so far supported the coup.

Orange Shirt Day

1. What inspired Orange Shirt Day?

Orange Shirt Day was inspired by the story of Phyllis Webstad.

2. What did Phyllis and her grandmother do before she went to school?

Her grandmother didn't have much money, but they saved up so Phyllis could wear a new

Monthly News Answer Key

outfit on the first day of school. Phyllis picked out a bright orange shirt with string laced up in the front.

3. What happened on the first day of school?

On the first day of school, she was forced into different clothing. Her bright orange shirt was taken away and she never saw it again.

4. How has the colour orange affected Phyllis since then?

Since then, the colour orange brings back the memories of how her feelings didn't matter and the feeling that she was worth nothing.

5. The orange shirt has become a symbol for what?

The orange shirt became a symbol of awareness of what happened at residential schools, and of support for healing and reconciliation. It has also become a symbol that every child matters.

UN Says Era of “Global Boiling” Is Here

1. To what was Guterres reacting?

Guterres was reacting to data showing the first three weeks of July 2023 to be the hottest period ever recorded.

2. Which areas had heatwaves?

There were multiple heatwaves across North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

3. What does Guterres say about July's temperatures?

Guterres says July's hot temperatures are a warning that the world needs to do more to cut carbon emissions and switch to renewable energy sources.

4. What term did Guterres use? Why?

Guterres used the term “global boiling” to indicate that temperature increases have

moved the Earth into a period of more intense heatwaves and extreme weather events.

5. What do scientists believe about the Earth's average global temperature?

Scientists believe the Earth's average global temperature can't increase more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above the average temperature during the 19th century if the worst effects of climate change are to be prevented.

First Commercial Flight for Virgin Galactic

1. How does Unity fly into space?

Unity doesn't launch from a rocket on the ground. It is carried on another airplane that takes it to about 13 kilometres above the Earth's surface. From there, Unity's powerful engines fire, boosting it up to 85 kilometres above the Earth's surface.

2. Who was on the flight? What did they do?

On board the flight were three military officers and scientists from Italy. They used the flight to conduct scientific experiments on how weightlessness affects the mixing of liquids and the behaviour of biological cells.

3. What could the passengers do while the plane was in space?

At that time, the passengers were able to unbuckle from their seats and float weightless in the ship's cabin. They also had a view of space and the Earth below.

4. How much does a flight cost?

A trip is expensive. Ticket prices range from \$250 000 to \$450 000 USD per seat.

5. Why will it take a while for the 800 people to have their turn?

It will take a while for each to have their turn as Unity only carries three to four passengers

at a time and can fly about once a month.

Political Cartoon

1. The man on the television

The man on the television is giving reports about climate change. Each report notes that things are getting worse.

2. The people on the couch

The people on the couch are responding to the reports. They go from asking if their grandchildren will survive climate change, to their children, to themselves.

3. Put all of the elements together and explain in your own words what the cartoon is saying.

We are being told that climate change is getting worse. It has gone from being problem that was for future generations to deal with, to something that we need to deal with now.

Monthly News Quiz

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU SHUFFLES CABINET

1. In Canada, the **CABINET** is made up of people, called ministers, who run major government departments.
2. **Observers believe the current shuffle is a way of placing greater emphasis on what?**
B. Economic priorities

COUP IN NIGER

1. On July 26, a group of **SOLDIERS** surrounded the presidential palace.
2. **The reason for the coup is security, social, and economic problems in the country.**
True

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

1. **On the first day of school, Phyllis' bright orange shirt was taken away and she never saw it again.**
True
2. The orange shirt has become a symbol that every **CHILD** matters.

UN SAYS ERA OF "GLOBAL BOILING" IS HERE

1. **Scientists believe that July's temperatures could be the hottest Earth has experienced over the past 2 million years.**
False – 120 000 years
2. Guterres used the term "**GLOBAL BOILING**" to indicate that temperature increases have moved the Earth into a period of more intense heatwaves and extreme weather events.

Monthly News Answer Key

