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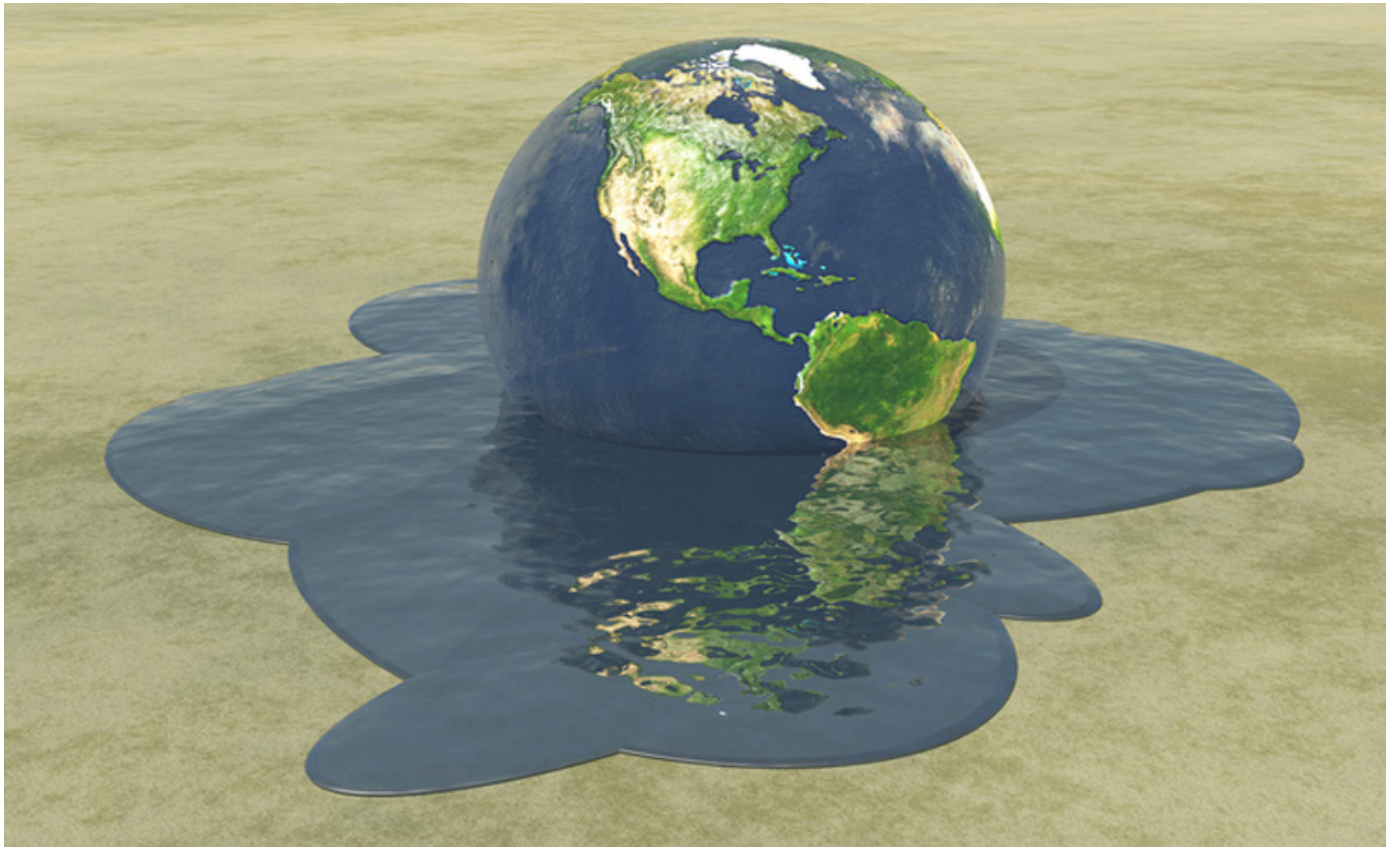
Monthly News

NATIONAL

FOR GRADES 8, 9 & 10

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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 have special areas of responsibility. They run major government departments and 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 typically chooses a cabinet right after an election. However, the prime minister may choose to change the cabinet in between elections—a move 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.

Cabinet shuffles can also be done to promote MPs to more important positions if they are performing well, or demoting ministers who are doing poorly.

For the current cabinet shuffle, Prime Minister Trudeau has brought in seven new faces. This also means seven people lost their positions as cabinet ministers. Four of those people had previously indicated they don't plan to run in the next federal election.

Notable changes include Anita Anand moving from national defence to become president of the **Treasury Board**. Treasury Board is a major portfolio as the government attempts to control spending and bring down **inflation**. Bill Blair takes over defence. The national defence portfolio is also an important one,

due to the war in Ukraine.

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.

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WORD POWER

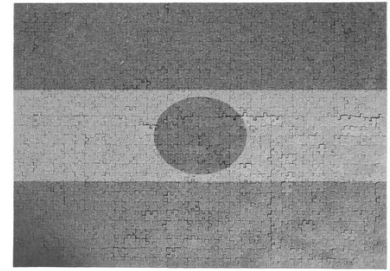
POLICIES: A set of ideas, plans, or guidelines to guide decisions, actions, and outcomes in an organization

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 landlocked country located in West Africa. It has a population of 25 million people and is a leading producer of uranium, which is used for nuclear energy. During the first half of the 20th century, Niger was a colony of France. Since then, 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 from Niger's defence and security forces 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 on state television that Niger's borders would be closed and a curfew would be imposed until things stabilize.

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

The coup may also have been influenced by the Russian **paramilitary group** Wagner, which has a presence in Niger.

Members of the government say they defy the coup. Niger's Foreign Affairs Minister Hassoumi Massoudou said, "we cannot accept" the coup in an interview with news network France 24. He 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. They chanted, "No coup d'etat" and marched in support of

President Bazoum. However, the Niger army has so far supported the coup.

Western countries, including the United States and 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. Niger is one of the world's poorest countries and receives hundreds of millions of dollars each year in assistance. ★



DID YOU KNOW

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

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Video



WORD POWER

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

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

PARAMILITARY GROUP: A group that is organized like an army but is not an official army overseen by a country's government

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. Do you know why?

Orange Shirt Day was inspired by the story of Phyllis Webstad, who is a residential school survivor.

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

Phyllis Webstad is from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation. She 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. The young girl remembers picking out a bright orange shirt with string laced up in the front. Not knowing better, she was very excited to go to school.

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

Phyllis has been on a healing journey since she was 27. She now understands how that feeling of worthlessness from that first day at the mission 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 the tragic story of Canada's residential schools, and of support for healing and **reconciliation**. It has also become a physical symbol that every child matters.

September 30 was chosen for Orange Shirt Day because it is the time of year in which children were commonly taken from their homes to go to residential schools. The purpose of the 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. In June 2021, the federal government made the day a federal holiday. It is a day for all Canadians to remember and reflect upon the **legacy** of residential schools.

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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



United Nations Secretary-General 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 on Earth ever recorded. In fact, 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 transition to renewable energy sources. In particular, he called on wealthy nations and political leaders around the world to take action. “Leaders must lead—no more excuses, no more waiting

for others to move first. There is simply no more time for that,” he said.

Guterres did note that there has been progress, particularly with increasing use of renewable energy in parts of the world. However, he said more needs to be done, including a faster transition 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. Communities in places like Yukon and Northwest Territories experienced hot weather smashing temperature records that have stood for decades.

Scientists note that global warming is occurring fastest in the polar regions of the Earth, including Canada’s arctic region.

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 **industrialization** 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:
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/rghw>

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WORD POWER

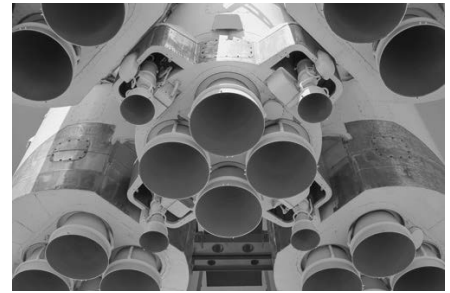
PRESS CONFERENCE: An interview given to journalists by a person or organization to make an announcement or answer questions

HEATWAVE: A prolonged period of unusually hot weather

INDUSTRIALIZATION: The development of industries in a country or region on a wide scale

FEATURE

First Commercial Flight for Virgin Galactic



The age of space tourism is gathering momentum. 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.

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

On board the flight were Walter Villadei, Angelo Landolfi, and Pantaleone Carlucci—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. Their trip was paid for by the Italian Air Force and the Italian National Research

Council.

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

Virgin Galactic is a private company owned by British billionaire 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. He, along with Jeff Bezos (the owner of Amazon who has his own space travel company called Blue Origin), is a **pioneer** of space tourism.

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

While the goal is to bring space travel to the masses, a trip

is expensive. Ticket prices range from \$250 000 to \$450 000 USD per seat. To date, 800 customers have booked flights on the space 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. The next flight was planned for August. ★



DID YOU KNOW

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

To view videos, go to:
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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

PIONEER: A person who is one of the first to explore a new land or try out a new thing

NATIONAL

Prime Minister Trudeau Shuffles Cabinet

1. What is the cabinet in Canada?

2. How do cabinet ministers get their position?

3. Why would a prime minister choose to change the cabinet in between elections?

4. Why did Prime Minister Trudeau shuffle the cabinet?

5. What are some of the changes made in the current cabinet shuffle?

CRITICAL THINKING

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

2. Why do you think Canadians are unhappy?

INTERNATIONAL

Coup in Niger

1. What happened on July 26?

2. What is the group called? Who is part of the group?

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

4. How has the government responded?

5. How have the people responded to the coup?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. What are your thoughts on the coup in Niger?

2. 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 headed 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 of what?

CRITICAL THINKING

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

2. Why is Orange Shirt Day important for all children, youth, and students? Explain your answer.

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

1. To what was Guterres reacting?

2. How were the temperatures this July?

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

4. What term did Guterres use? Why?

5. What is the importance of the 1.5 degrees Celsius (1.5C) threshold?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. What should governments do to fight climate change?

2. How were the temperatures this summer in your area? How did it compare to other summers?

FEATURE

First Commercial Flight for Virgin Galactic

1. How does Unity go into space?

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

3. How long was the flight? How long were they in space?

4. What is Branson’s vision for Virgin Galactic?

5. How much does it cost to go to space on Unity? How many people have signed up?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. What are your thoughts on Virgin Galactic taking paying guests into space?

2. 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

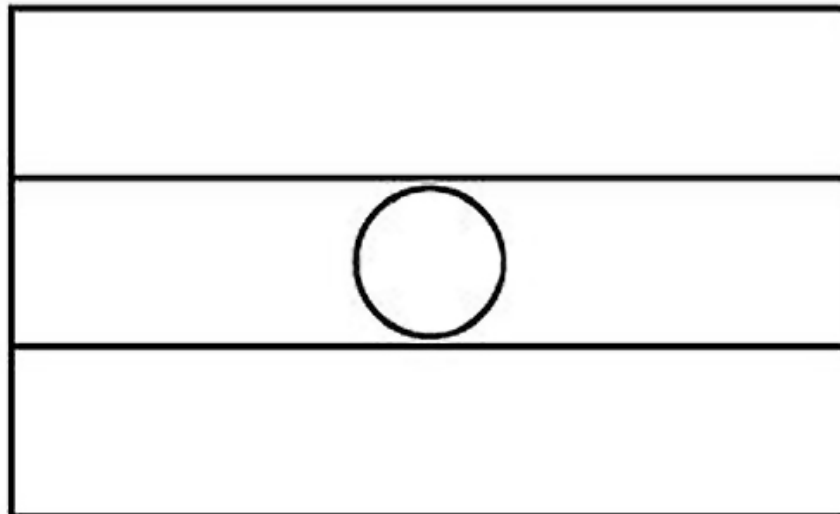


Looking at Niger

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 Communaute Financiere 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

- Cabinet ministers are chosen by who?
A. The king B. The people C. The prime minister D. The Senate
- Observers believe the prime minister is responding to Canadians' _____ over the rising cost of living.

COUP IN NIGER

- On July 26, a group of business owners and politicians surrounded the presidential palace.
True False
- Members of the _____ say they defy the coup.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

- The school gave Phyllis a bright orange shirt when she arrived.
True False
- The orange shirt has become a physical symbol that _____.

UN SAYS ERA OF “GLOBAL BOILING” IS HERE

- Data shows the first three weeks of July 2023 to be the _____ period on Earth ever recorded.
- Guterres said more needs to be done, including a faster transition away from what?
A. Nuclear power B. Fossil fuels like oil C. Solar power D. Wind power
and natural gas

Monthly News Answer Key

Prime Minister Trudeau Shuffles Cabinet

- 1. What is the cabinet in Canada?**
In Canada, the cabinet is made up of people, called ministers, who have special areas of responsibility. They run major government departments and work with the prime minister to set policies and priorities for those departments.
- 2. How do cabinet ministers get their position?**
Cabinet ministers are chosen by the prime minister, usually from among elected Members of Parliament (MPs) from his or her political party.
- 3. Why would a prime minister choose to change the cabinet in between elections?**
This can be done to shake things up or signal a changing focus for the government. Cabinet shuffles can also be done to promote MPs to more important positions if they are performing well, or demoting ministers who are doing poorly.
- 4. Why did Prime Minister Trudeau shuffle the cabinet?**
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 made in the current cabinet shuffle?**
For the current cabinet shuffle, Prime Minister Trudeau has brought in seven new faces. This also 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. 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 happened on July 26?**
On July 26, a group of soldiers from Niger's defence and security forces surrounded the presidential palace. They detained President Bazoum within the palace and announced that they are now in power.
- 2. What is the group called? Who is part of the group?**
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.
- 3. What are the soldiers' reasons for the coup?**
The soldiers say their reasons for the coup involve security, social, and economic problems in the country, which they blame on the government. However, some observers in Niger say the soldiers were motivated by the fact President Bazoum was planning to fire a general named Omar Tchiani.
- 4. How has the government responded?**
Members of the government say they defy the coup. Niger's Foreign Affairs Minister Hassoumi Massoudou said, "we cannot accept" the coup in an interview with news network France 24. He called on Niger citizens to stand up and say no to the takeover.
- 5. How have the people responded to the coup?**
Hundreds of people did take to the streets of Niger's capital city, Niamey. They chanted, "No coup d'etat" and marched in support of President Bazoum. However, 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, who is a residential school survivor.

Monthly News Answer Key

2. What did Phyllis and her grandmother do before she headed to 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. The young girl remembers picking 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 stripped and 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 has reminded her of what happened. It brings back the memories of how her feelings didn't matter and how she felt that she was worth nothing.

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The orange shirt became a symbol of awareness of the tragic story of Canada's residential schools, and of support for healing and reconciliation. It has also become a physical symbol that every child matters.

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Guterres was reacting to data showing the first three weeks of July 2023 to be the hottest period on Earth ever recorded. In fact, scientists believe that the temperatures could be the hottest Earth has experienced over the past 120 000 years.

2. How were the temperatures this July?

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.

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 transition to renewable energy sources. In particular, he called on wealthy

nations and political leaders around the world to take action.

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 is the importance of the 1.5 degrees Celsius (1.5C) threshold?

The 1.5C figure compares today's average temperatures to what they were in the 19th century—before industrialization 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.

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Monthly News Answer Key

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Branson’s vision is that Virgin Galactic will eventually make space travel a thing ordinary people (who have enough money) can experience and enjoy.

5. How much does it cost to go to space on Unity? How many people have signed up?

Ticket prices range from \$250 000 to \$450 000 USD per seat. To date, 800 customers have booked flights on the space plane.

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. Cabinet ministers are chosen by who?**
C. The prime minister
- Observers believe the prime minister is responding to Canadians’ **UNHAPPINESS** over the rising cost of living.

COUP IN NIGER

- 1. On July 26, a group of business owners and politicians surrounded the presidential palace.**
False - Soldiers from Niger’s defence and security forces

- Members of the **GOVERNMENT** say they defy the coup.

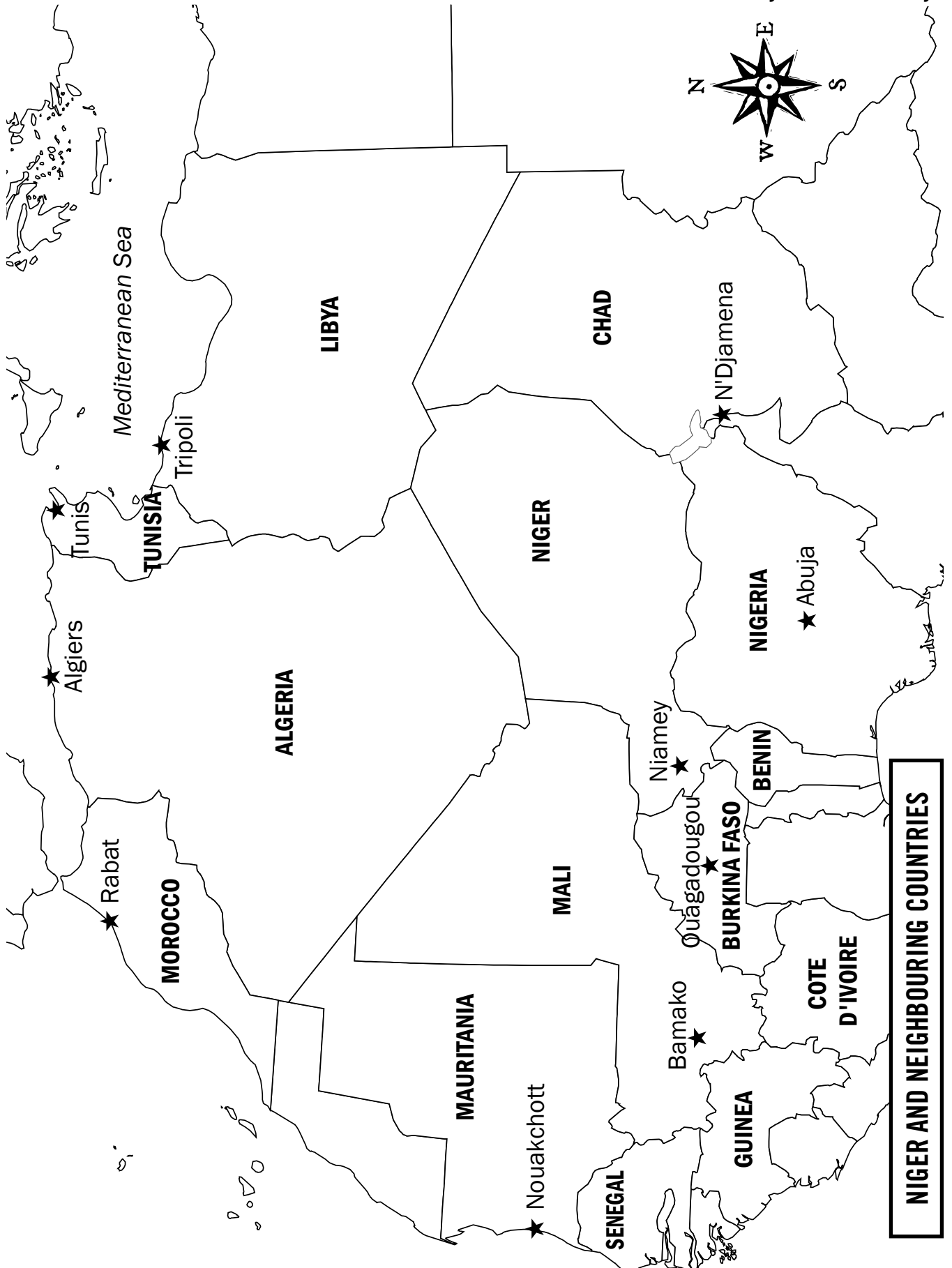
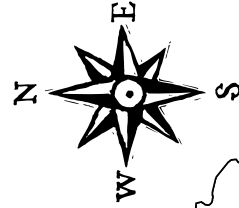
ORANGE SHIRT DAY

- 1. The school gave Phyllis a bright orange shirt when she arrived.**
False – Her shirt was taken away
- The orange shirt has become a physical symbol that **EVERY CHILD MATTERS**.

UN SAYS ERA OF “GLOBAL BOILING” IS HERE

- Data shows the first three weeks of July 2023 to be the **HOTTEST** period on Earth ever recorded.
- 2. Guterres said more needs to be done, including a faster transition away from what?**
B. Fossil fuels like oil and natural gas

Monthly News Answer Key



NIGER AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES