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News

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Reader.

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A Bigger Payday

The minimum wage in many states is going up.

Hundreds of thousands of the nation's lowest-paid workers are getting a raise in the new year. Eighteen states, including California, Michigan, and New York, will increase their minimum wage by January 1.

The minimum wage is the lowest amount of money per hour that a worker can legally be paid for most jobs. The federal, or national, minimum wage has been \$7.25 per hour since 2009. But states and cities can require employers to pay workers more. Twenty-nine states and Washington, D.C., have minimum wages that are higher than what the federal government requires (*see map*).

A Payday Debate

Lawmakers, business owners, and workers across the U.S. have long debated whether raising the minimum wage helps or hurts the **economy**.

One of the main arguments against raising the minimum wage is that it may end up actually hurting low-wage workers. To make up for paying workers more, some companies say they might have to cut the number of hours their employees work or even eliminate some jobs.

“Those workers who lose their

Word to Know

economy *noun*. the system in which goods and services are made, bought, and sold in a country



About one-quarter of people who make the federal minimum wage work in food service.

jobs will instead earn \$0 per hour,” Ron Johnson, a U.S. senator from Wisconsin, wrote in an opinion essay for Scholastic.

However, others point out that workers who make only \$7.25 an hour struggle to pay for food, rent, and other basic needs, even when they’re working full-time.

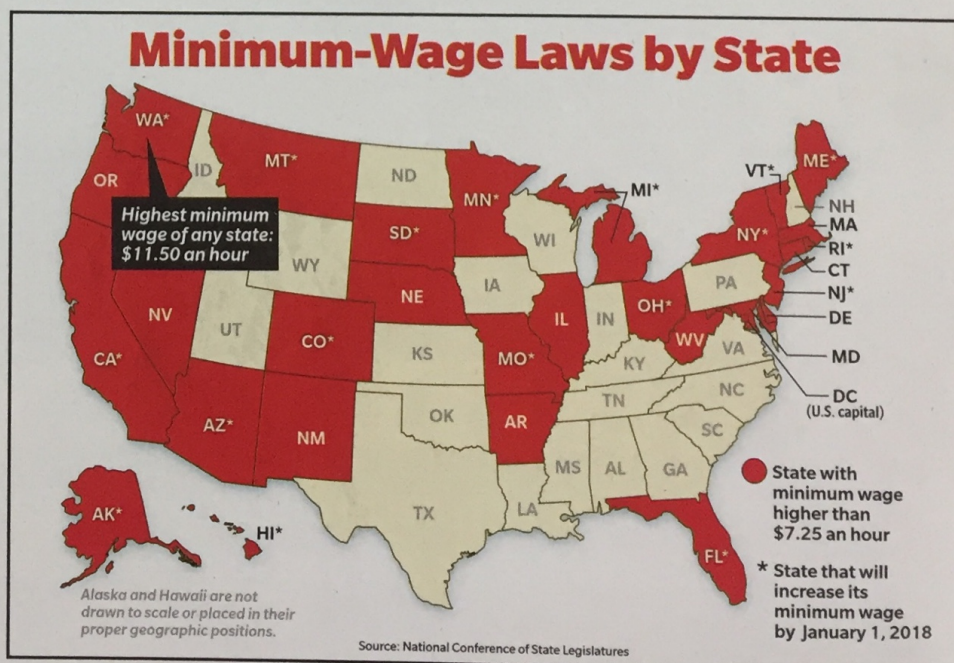
“Anyone who works 40 hours a week in America should not be living in poverty,” says Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont. Last May, he introduced a bill that would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2024. But the bill has stalled.

Antwan Williams is one person who would like to see that bill

become a law. He works at Captain Jay’s Fish & Chicken, a fast-food restaurant in Detroit, Michigan. On January 1, his hourly pay will go from \$8.90 to \$9.25, as the state’s minimum wage increases. Williams says the extra money will help him pay for bus fare to and from work. But he still can’t afford to rent his own apartment, so he lives with relatives.

Williams is a supporter of the group Fight for \$15. Since 2012, it has held protests across the U.S. to push Congress to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

“People deserve better,” says Williams.



JEFFREY GREENBERG/IGU VIA GETTY IMAGES (FAST FOOD RESTAURANT); JIM MCMAHON/MAPMAN (MAP)

Barbie's New Look

An Olympic medal winner is honored with her own Barbie doll.

The Mattel toy company recently announced that a new Barbie doll will be hitting stores next fall. The doll is modeled after Olympic athlete Ibtihaj Muhammad (IB-tee-hahj moo-HAHM-midh). It will be the first Barbie to wear a hijab (hee-JAHB), a type of scarf that covers a woman's hair and neck.

At the 2016 Summer Olympics, Muhammad became the first woman to compete for Team USA while wearing a hijab. She competes in sabre fencing, a sport in which athletes score points by striking opponents with a thin sword. Muhammad won a bronze medal at the games, making her the first female Muslim American to win an Olympic medal.

Muslims practice the religion of Islam. Like many Muslim women, Muhammad wears a

Ibtihaj Muhammad holds her look-alike Barbie doll.



hijab because she believes in covering most of her body when she's in public.

She grew up in Maplewood, New Jersey, in the 1990s. She says it was difficult to find dolls that represented people who look like her.

"Sometimes, there would be dolls we wanted that didn't come with brown skin, so it was kind of frustrating," she explains.

Muhammad hopes her Barbie will inspire companies to increase diversity in toys.

"Now there's a doll that wears a hijab," she says. "I think that it's **revolutionary**."

The doll will be part of the Barbie Sheroes collection, which honors inspirational women. The collection also includes dolls based on Olympic gymnast Gabby Douglas and ballerina Misty Copeland.

Word to Know

revolutionary adjective. involving or causing a major change

Picture THIS

Taking the High Road

This crosswalk in a small town in Iceland may appear to be floating, but you're actually seeing an optical illusion. The crosswalk is on flat pavement, but it was painted to look like it's hovering a couple of feet above the ground. It's a creative way to get drivers to slow down on the busy street. "Floating" 3-D crosswalks have been used in other countries, including India and China. See how the illusion was created at www.scholastic.com/sn56.





He Had a Dream

Fifty years after the death of Martin Luther King Jr., his youngest child discusses his life and legacy.

On April 3, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. arrived in Memphis, Tennessee. At the time, he was the leading voice of the civil rights movement—the long struggle to gain equal rights for African-Americans. He had come to Memphis to support the city’s black sanitation workers. They had been on strike for nearly two months while demanding better pay and safer working conditions. King planned to lead a protest march two days later. Tragically, he wouldn’t get to lead the march. The next evening,

while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, King was shot and killed.

People around the world mourned the loss of King—none more than his family. Bernice King, the youngest of his four children, was 5 years old at the time. Fifty years later, she remembers her father’s courage and his message of working to bring about change through nonviolent protest.

“He served humanity and he sacrificed his life for the betterment of the world,” she says.

An “Ordinary” Kid

Though Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered as a heroic figure, Bernice King says we shouldn’t think of him as a “superhero.”

“He was really an ordinary person who was able to do extraordinary things,” she says.

Born in 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia, King was a lot like other kids. He pulled pranks with his siblings, didn’t like to do the dishes, and loved to play baseball.

King grew up in an unjust society. In Georgia and other Southern states, segregation—the forced separation of people based on race—was the law. African-Americans could not use the same bathrooms, eat at the same restaurants, or attend the same schools as white people. In addition, many states had other racist laws that limited black people’s basic rights, including voting in elections.

Fighting for Equality

King emerged as a leader in the civil rights movement in December 1955. At the time, he was the pastor of a church in Montgomery, Alabama. The city

was one of many that didn’t allow people on public buses to help organize the city’s buses. There were more than a yearlong boycott, it was argued in court and ended after the Supreme Court outlawed public buses.

The Montgomery bus boycott thrust King into the spotlight. It also led to many times of nonviolent tactics, marches, to protest.

King’s tireless work brought about many changes. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, outlawed segregation in public places. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 made it illegal to deny the right to vote based on race. These victories led to more African-American groups that fought for equality.

The Ultimate Sacrifice

Sadly, many people don’t share King’s dream. He was viewed as a threat by white Americans and black people who didn’t want the rights that he fought for. His family received threats, and his home was bombed. Bernice King made her father’s dream a reality. Her leader was the one who died for his dream.

“I think [his dream] is not going to be taken at any given moment. It has to be taken for granted.”

Words to Know

boycott *noun*. a type of protest in which people refuse to use a service or buy a product

discrimination *noun*. unjust behavior toward others based on differences such as race, religion, or nationality

was one of many in the South that didn't allow black people to sit in the same section as white people on public buses. Civil rights leaders approached King to help organize a **boycott** of the city's buses. The boycott lasted more than a year while the issue was argued in court. It finally ended after the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed segregation on public buses.

The Montgomery bus boycott thrust King into the national spotlight. It also marked the first of many times that he would use nonviolent tactics, like peaceful marches, to protest unjust laws.

King's tireless efforts helped bring about many positive changes. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, outlawed segregation in public places. The following year, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 made it illegal to deny anyone the right to vote based on race. Even after these victories, King continued to work to gain equal rights for African-Americans and other groups that faced **discrimination**.

The Ultimate Sacrifice

Sadly, many Americans didn't share King's dream of equality. He was viewed as a threat by many white Americans who didn't think black people deserved the same rights that they had. King and his family received numerous death threats, and their house was bombed. Bernice King says what made her father such a special leader was that he wasn't afraid to die for what he believed in.

"I think [he] knew that he was not going to live a long life—that at any given moment he was going to be taken from us," she says.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

—Martin Luther King Jr. during his "I Have a Dream" speech on August 28, 1963

King plays with his daughter Bernice in the backyard of their home in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1964.

The night before he was assassinated, King gave one of his most famous speeches. He said he envisioned a day when America would truly be a land of equality. But he knew that he might not live to see it.

"I've seen the Promised Land," King told a huge audience in Memphis. "I may not get there with you. But I want you to know

tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land!"

Though his voice was silenced the next day, King's message lived on. Other civil rights leaders stepped in to keep the movement going. Among them was King's wife, Coretta Scott King. Later in 1968, she founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. Today, Bernice King is the chief executive officer of the center.

Each January, we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The holiday has become a national day of service, when millions of volunteers help others in their communities, in King's honor.

"I think his greatest legacy is teaching us a way to really, frankly, get along in the world," says Bernice King.

—by Joe Bubar

Visitors take photos at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"I've Been to the Mountaintop"

Watch a video clip of Martin Luther King Jr.'s last speech:
www.scholastic.com/sn56

Man's Oldest Friend

Archaeologists may have found the earliest pictures of dogs.

The internet is filled with photos of people and their dogs. Thousands of years ago, people had a different way of capturing images of dogs—they carved pictures of them into rocks! In a study released in November, archaeologists revealed that they have found what could be the oldest images of dogs in the world.

The pictures were etched into boulders in Saudi Arabia, a country in the Middle East. They show men using dogs to help them hunt animals such as lions and antelope. The researchers who studied the carvings estimate that they were created as long as 9,000 years ago.

"It was very exciting because these are the first images of people living side by side with dogs," says archaeologist Michael Petraglia. He is one of the authors of the study.

Prehistoric Pictures

Thousands of years ago, people living in what is now northern Saudi Arabia carved images of their daily lives into boulders. Since the 1980s, archaeologists



These ancient carvings show a hunter with a bow and arrow and two dogs on leashes. In this photo, the carvings are colored white to better show the details.

have closely studied many of these petroglyphs, or ancient stone carvings.

Three years ago, Petraglia and his team examined a section of rock art that hadn't been studied before. They looked at about 1,400 pieces of rock, with more than 6,600 images of animals. Some of the animals were dogs they believe to be Canaans, a breed that has lived in Saudi Arabia for centuries.

Petraglia says some of the most interesting carvings show people with lines extending from their hips (like the one shown above). The lines are connected to the necks of dogs. Experts say these carvings are the oldest evidence of people using leashes on dogs.

A Canaan dog



Back in Time

Experts estimate that dogs were first **domesticated** about 15,000 years ago. Before the recent discovery, the oldest-known depictions of dogs were on pieces of painted pottery found in modern-day Iran. They date back about 8,000 years.

How did experts estimate the age of the carvings in Saudi Arabia? The most important clue was carvings of cattle that were etched on top of the dog images. Archaeologists think the prehistoric people who lived in the area went from mainly hunting to herding cattle more than 8,000 years ago. Petraglia says that means that the dog carvings must be at least that old.

Archaeologists hope other stone carvings in the region will reveal even more about prehistoric life.

"The rock carvings are a picture into the past," Petraglia says.

—by Tricia Culligan

Word to Know

domesticated verb, past tense. tamed to be able to live and work with humans



Should Exotic Reptiles Be Sold as Pets?

A boy holds a pet bearded dragon, which is native to Australia.



Not everyone has to take a trip to the zoo to see unusual lizards, snakes, and frogs. Millions of people in the United States keep exotic reptiles and amphibians as pets. The term “exotic pets” describes animals, usually from other countries, that haven’t been domesticated.

Cities and states make their own laws about which animals people can keep as pets. In New York City, for example, residents aren’t allowed to own many types of exotic lizards or big snakes like pythons and anacondas.

Many people argue that owners often don’t know how to properly care for exotic pets. Most reptiles and amphibians from warmer climates need heat lamps that have to be closely monitored. Others, especially big snakes, require expensive large tanks or cages. Many of these animals suffer in their new homes. A study released in October by researchers at the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics in England found that 75 percent of pet reptiles and amphibians die in their first year.

However, other people say there are many positives to keeping exotic reptiles and amphibians as pets. For one thing, most of them make less of a mess and need less space than dogs and cats do. Frank Pasmans is a veterinarian and professor at Ghent University in Belgium. He says responsible people who understand what they’re getting into should be allowed to own reptiles and amphibians.

“If you allow people to keep dogs or cats, you can also allow people to keep reptiles and amphibians,” he says.

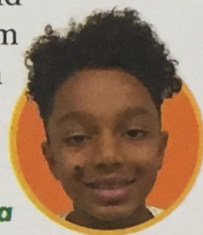
Here’s what two of our readers think.

Yes! Many amphibians and reptiles make great pets.

An exotic amphibian or reptile can be a good pet choice for families who can’t have dogs or cats. My mom is allergic to fur, but our family really wanted a pet, so we got a type of snake called a ball python. Owning my python is easier than having a pet cat or dog. For example, it needs to be fed only once every three to four weeks.

My ball python has taught me responsibility, because I must control the temperature in its cage. I’m also responsible for feeding it. People can learn a lot about reptiles and amphibians by keeping them as pets. Owners might even get inspired to help these animals in the wild.

CJ Tomlin, Georgia



No! Reptiles and amphibians should stay in the wild.

Many people buy amphibians and reptiles without first researching how to take care of them. Pet owners might get frustrated because they don’t know what their pets need. As a result, some people have released their pets into the wild. That can cause problems with local food chains, spread harmful diseases, and damage ecosystems.

Also, wildlife experts point out that some reptiles and amphibians that are sold online have been illegally captured from the wild in other countries. Many conservationists fear that selling these animals as pets could cause them to become endangered in the wild.

Ashley Cruce, Virginia



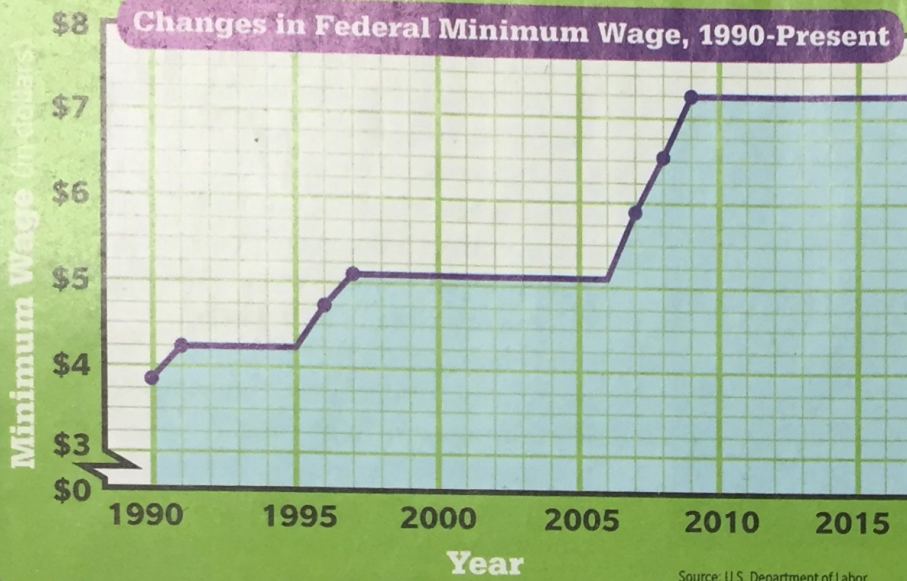
What’s Your OPINION? Go online to cast your vote and download an opinion-writing skills sheet: www.scholastic.com/sn56

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News Graph

The federal minimum wage was established in 1938. At that time, it was 25 cents per hour. It slowly rose over the years as the cost of living increased. By 1990, it was \$3.80 per hour. This graph shows how the minimum wage has changed since then.



1. In which year did the minimum wage increase to \$4.75 per hour?

2. In 2008, the minimum wage _____.
 Ⓐ did not change
 Ⓑ was about \$6.50 per hour
 Ⓒ increased by \$1
 Ⓓ was \$1 less than it is today

3. Did the minimum wage increase by a greater amount during the 1990s or the 2000s? Explain.

News Review

A Bigger Payday page 2

4. Based on the article, which is a main argument against raising the federal minimum wage?
- Ⓐ Many states have minimum wages that are higher than the federal requirement.
 Ⓑ Workers who make \$7.25 an hour struggle to pay for food, rent, or other basic needs.
 Ⓒ Companies might have to cut some jobs to make up for paying workers more.
 Ⓓ The federal minimum wage has not changed since 2009.

5. According to the map on page 2, which of the following states has a minimum wage of \$7.25?
- Ⓐ Arizona (AZ) Ⓒ Florida (FL)
 Ⓑ Texas (TX) Ⓓ Nevada (NV)

Barbie's New Look page 3

6. According to Ibtihaj Muhammad, why is the new Barbie revolutionary?
- Ⓐ It's the first Barbie to wear a hijab.
 Ⓑ It encourages girls to try fencing.
 Ⓒ It's from the Barbie Sheroes collection.
 Ⓓ It honors Olympic athletes.



He Had a Dream pages 4-5

7. Which event happened first?
- Ⓐ The Civil Rights Act of 1964 became a law.
 Ⓑ Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.
 Ⓒ The U.S. Supreme Court outlawed segregation on public buses.
 Ⓓ Black sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, went on strike.
8. Which of the following is an example of a boycott?
- Ⓐ riding on a public bus
 Ⓑ taking part in a protest march
 Ⓒ separating people based on race
 Ⓓ refusing to shop in a certain store
9. According to Bernice King, one reason her father was a special leader was that he _____.
 Ⓐ gave powerful speeches
 Ⓑ was an ordinary person
 Ⓒ wasn't afraid to die for his beliefs
 Ⓓ grew up in a state where segregation was legal
10. King says her father's greatest legacy is _____.
 Ⓐ teaching people to get along
 Ⓑ being a superhero
 Ⓒ his "I Have a Dream" speech
 Ⓓ having a national holiday in his honor