Bush embarks on South, Central American trip, 7A

What is the purpose of President Bush’s trip to Argentina, Brazil and Panama? What domestic troubles have plagued the Bush administration recently?

What kind of reception is the president expected to receive from citizens of the countries he visits?

What stance on free trade has Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez already adopted? On what other issue are he and Bush likely to clash? What does Bush assert are the benefits of opening markets and increasing trade? What “shared values” will the president try to promote at the Summit of the Americas?

What broader trade topics will he address? Why is Brazil considered a key ally in reviving the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas?

Patent applications soar

The number of patent applications to the U.S. Patent Office has more than doubled since fiscal year 1990:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Applications (in thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>175,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'04</td>
<td>377,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

A patent is an exclusive right officially granted by a government to an inventor to make or sell an invention or innovation. List 10 products and/or technologies that a company might want to patent. Why would it do this?
He's donating $100 million to a university, Money, 1B

APPLICATIONS: entrepreneurship, business, analysis

DISCUSSION: What is social entrepreneurship? How could it change traditional philanthropy? How are tech entrepreneurs like eBay founder Pierre Omidyar and Microsoft's Bill Gates using their fortunes to help end poverty and disease around the globe?

ACTIVITY: The term “Old Economy” describes the well-established, financially-sound industries that enjoyed tremendous growth during the early parts of the 20th century. These companies tend to be very traditional in their business practices. “New Economy” refers to new, high growth industries that are on the cutting edge of technology and are the driving force of economic growth. Identify two companies that fall into the “Old Economy” category and two that fit into the “New Economy” model. Briefly explain the product or service each business provides. Then, describe the type of philanthropy each company tends to engage in. How do their approaches differ?

APPLICATIONS: language arts, multiculturalism, synthesis

DISCUSSION: Why are youths in Paris-area towns rioting? Why are President Jacques Chirac and the French government being criticized? How has Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin responded to the crisis? When and why did the riots begin? How have they disrupted life around the French capital?

ACTIVITY: The critically-acclaimed, Academy Award-nominated film Amélie tells the story of a shy, naive French girl who enjoys simple pleasures and helping others. However, the movie drew criticism from some French critics for its depiction of a largely unrealistic and picturesque vision of contemporary French society. Similarly, many people around the world were shocked to see that numerous victims of Hurricane Katrina had been living in such abject poverty. Choose any country, and describe your perception of the people and culture. Then, through research, find evidence that refutes your notions.
Ronald Reagan is widely remembered for declaring: “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.” To whom and what was he referring? What walls symbolize? Why did Israel erect a concrete wall and metal fences along the West Bank? What effect has the wall had on the Mideast peace process?

In 1879, humorist Will Rogers was born in Oologah, Okla.

In 1880, the first cash register was patented by James and John Ritty of Dayton, Ohio.

In 1884, Democrat Grover Cleveland was elected to his first term as president, defeating Republican James G. Blaine.

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen’s tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1924, Nellie T. Ross of Wyoming was elected the nation’s first female governor to serve out the remaining term of her late husband, William B. Ross.

In 1952, Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president, defeating Democrat Adlai Stevenson.

In 1979, the Iranian hostage crisis began as militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants. For some of the hostages, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan won the White House as he defeated President Carter by a strong margin.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a festive peace rally.

Johnny Cash: The man, the myth, the movie, 1A

In his 1971 song Man in Black, Cash sings, “I wear the black for the poor and the beaten down / Livin’ in the hopeless, hungry side of town / I wear it for the prisoner who has long paid for his crime / But is there because he’s a victim of the times ... I wear it for the sick and lonely old / For the reckless ones whose bad trip left them cold / I wear the black in mournin’ for the lives that could have been / Each week we lose a hundred fine young men.” Consider the context of the times during which the song was written. What message (social, political, etc.) was Cash trying to send? Do his words apply to today’s world? If so, explain why.

*Source: toptown.com*
Black Americans make up smaller share of military, News, 1A

Why are fewer African Americans joining the military? Is this a positive or negative trend? Why is it difficult for many Hispanics to enlist in the armed forces?

Enlisted members of our military join with a high school diploma (or equivalent). They fill office, transportation, human service, mechanical and combat jobs, and make up about 85% of service personnel. Officers join with a four-year college degree or better. They fill managerial, professional and technical jobs, including doctors, nurses, lawyers, engineers, pilots, etc., and make up the other 15% of service personnel.*

Does a career in the military interest you? If so, which branch and what type of job?

USA TODAY Snapshots®

Magical books for children

Ever since J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series was published in the late 1990s, books for children with a sci-fi/fantasy theme have been in demand. Number published:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>1,268</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPLICATIONS: self-reflection, analysis

What impact has J.K. Rowling had on the publishing and film industries? What new terms has she added to the English language? How has she influenced millions of readers of all ages? What controversies have her books caused? What other authors have had such an enormous effect on so many facets of life?

It’s amazing to consider that Rowling — armed only with a napkin, pen and her imagination (as the story goes) — began to craft a work that would become an international phenomenon. Her achievement, however, is testimony to the immeasurable power of words and the imagination.

In a journal entry, identify five written works (books, letters, lyrics, etc.) that have profoundly affected you. Then, describe five imaginative feats (inventions, epiphanies, etc.) that have altered your life. Finally, describe one way that you could use words and/or your imagination to improve an aspect of your life or the lives of others.

*Source: Department of Labor

The First Amendment

Student Challenge on...

Student Challenge on...

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

During this project, you are going to examine the scope and meaning of the First Amendment and how it applies not only to the press, but to ordinary citizens just like you. The First Amendment is not limited to just freedom of speech; in fact, it protects five liberties: religion, speech, press, assembly and petition.

Divide the class into five groups, and assign each one of the liberties protected by the First Amendment. Have students research and explain what their assigned freedom means. Students should also identify a landmark Supreme Court ruling related to their assigned freedom.