

WE WERE HEARD



THEIR DAY IN COURT

Young people in Montana say government should protect them from climate change. A judge agrees.

LEXILE: 1080L (910L alternate reading level)

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.4, RI.6-8.8, SL.6-8.4

ENGAGE THE READER

Tell students they'll be reading about a group of young people in Montana who sued the state over climate change. Ask: Do you think government is responsible for protecting citizens from the effects of climate change? Why or why not? What can government do to protect people from climate change? Kids under 18 can't vote. What resources do kids have to change policies that affect their lives?

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- Judge Seeley said the state's support of fossil fuels violated the kids' right to a clean environment. What is a right? How do we determine what rights people have? Do we have a right to a clean environment? Explain.
- Kian Tanner says *Held v. Montana* sets a precedent for how to act on climate change. What does he mean?
- In its defense, Montana's government has said that "Montanans can't be blamed for changing the climate." What does that mean? Do you agree with this argument? Why or why not?

EXTEND LEARNING

Challenge students to hold a mock trial on the issue of climate change and citizens' rights. Break the class into groups. Half of the groups will take the side of the plaintiffs in *Held v. Montana*. The other groups will take the state government's side. As the groups build their case, they should consider the following questions: 1) Do citizens have a right to a clean environment? Why or why not? 2) Who should bear the responsibility for climate change, and why? 3) What is government's responsibility in fighting climate change? Have the groups write an outline of their case and select a group member to present it to the class, as though summing it up before a judge. Start with the plaintiffs, then give the defense its turn. When the arguments are done, ask the class to evaluate them. Which side was more convincing, and why? What can this case tell us about how our rights as citizens are determined?

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 3 of this guide.
To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

1. D (RI.3) 2. C (RI.3) 3. B (RI.2) 4. A (RI.6) 5. D (RI.8)
6. C (RI.7) 7. Answers will vary. (W.8)



CLIMATE PROTESTS

Protesters are demanding that the United States move away from oil and gas.

LEXILE: 900L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: People, Places, and Environments

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.4, RI.6-8.7, RI.6-8.8

BEFORE READING

Have students read the article's headline and look at the photo. Ask: What's happening in the photo? What information about the protests does the photo provide? Explain. What motivates people to march in demonstrations? Do you think these protests can be effective? Why or why not? How do you think news outlets should cover climate demonstrations? What information do you expect this article to include? Have students note details, while reading, that support or challenge their initial ideas.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are the protesters demanding, and what do they want the U.S. government to do?
- Why do you think the protests took place during Climate Week? What is the protesters' strategy?
- What perspectives are included in this article? What other perspectives could be included in a follow-up story? Explain your thinking.



CARING FOR KIDS

Two pediatricians share their perspectives on this popular career.

LEXILE: 1070L (870L alternate reading level)

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.4, W.6-8.2

BEFORE READING

What does a pediatrician do? What do you think might be the most important requirements for being a pediatrician, and why? What might be the most difficult parts of the job?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Would you make a good pediatrician? Why or why not? Refer to specific details in the article.
- What are the important skills to have as a pediatrician? What other professions might use these skills?
- Jaclyn Dovico was a banker before becoming a pediatrician. What can this tell us about careers?

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Dr. Johanna Rodriguez-Toledo says of her job, "You have to . . . put in a lot of hours. But even though it's hard work, it's worth it to make a difference." Have students write a short essay about how this quote might apply to their future career. Their essay might also reflect on why a career is important, and what it means to them. If students have not yet imagined their future career, they may write about something they're involved in now.

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week's cover story, "Their Day in Court," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, use the back of this page.

<p>1. Why was this case taken to court?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Kids in the state were having health problems. B. Greenhouse-gas emissions were harming animals. C. Montana has some of the highest emissions in the world. D. Montana was violating its people's right to a healthy environment. 	<p>4. What is Rikki Held's stated point of view on climate change?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Montana needs to take responsibility for its part in this global issue. B. The science of climate change is very clear. C. The state is responsible for the health of future generations. D. Truth matters.
<p>2. What was the outcome of the <i>Held v. Montana</i> case?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The judge decided kids are responsible for protecting the environment. B. The judge decided that governments are not responsible for controlling greenhouse-gas emissions. C. The judge decided that Montana's government has a duty to protect citizens from climate change. D. The judge decided Montanans could not be blamed for climate change. 	<p>5. Which detail shows that there are still challenges ahead, even though the kids won the case?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. A case in Oregon brought against the U.S. government could go to trial next year. B. Young people in Hawaii have filed a similar suit. C. <i>Held v. Montana</i> could influence how other cases are decided. D. Montana's government calls the judge's ruling unfair, and says it will appeal.
<p>3. How is the section "Taking the Stand" important to the story?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. It highlights Montana's history of environmentalism. B. It illustrates what took place during the trial. C. It explains the impact the judge's decision will have. D. It details why the kids wanted to go to trial. 	<p>6. How do the photographs showing Montana's landscape support the main idea?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. They show the ages of the plaintiffs in the case. B. They show examples of Montana's greenhouse-gas emissions. C. They show aspects of Montana's environment that are affected by climate change. D. They show the impact climate change is having across the world.

7. Do you agree with Judge Kathy Seeley's decision? Explain.
