

Logging Off



Australia has passed a law enforcing social-media age restrictions. Will other countries do the same?

LEXILE: 1040L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Science, Technology, and Society; Power, Authority, and Governance

ENGAGE THE READER

Write the term *social media* on the board. Ask students which platforms they use or know of (e.g., Youtube, TikTok, X). Then ask them to consider whether social media has a positive, negative, or neutral effect on young people. Have them show their opinion with a thumbs-up, thumbs-down, or thumb-sideways. Tally the results and invite volunteers to share their reasoning before reading.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- What's the goal of Australia's new law? Do you think it will be effective? Explain.
- Why do you think children were invited to the February 5 press conference?
- What evidence is there to support enacting this law?

EXTEND LEARNING

Return to the results from the poll you took in the beginning of the lesson and calculate the percentage of each response. Then ask students how they think these results might have been different a couple years ago. Five years ago? Ten years ago? Have students share their ideas.

Have partners or individuals read the report from the Pew Research Center about social media and mental health at [ti.me/SocialMediaSurvey](https://www.pewresearch.org/social-media-survey/). Have students discuss or take notes about the findings and why they're important. Are any of the findings surprising? Point out the details in "Logging Off" that explain the Kids Off Social Media Act in the U.S., which is working to ban social media for kids under 13 and to limit its reach for those under 17. Have a class discussion or a debate about whether or not this act is a good idea.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.
To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

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

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week's cover story, "Logging Off," 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, you may use the back of this page.

<p>1. What is Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's perspective on social media?</p> <p>A. It should be banned.</p> <p>B. Social media should only be restricted for children under 13.</p> <p>C. Social media causes anxiety.</p> <p>D. Social media is a threat to Australia's children.</p>	<p>4. What is a likely outcome of the new law?</p> <p>A. It will fix all mental health issues among young people.</p> <p>B. Social media will attract more cyberbullies.</p> <p>C. It will encourage kids to interact with each other in person.</p> <p>D. Gaming website use will decrease.</p>
<p>2. Using context from paragraph 5, what does <i>enforce</i> mean?</p> <p>A. to punish</p> <p>B. to fine</p> <p>C. to carry out</p> <p>D. to restrict</p>	<p>5. What does Anthony Albanese mean when he says, "This won't be absolute"?</p> <p>A. The law will not solve all the problems caused by social media.</p> <p>B. The law might not spread to other countries.</p> <p>C. The plan is not a good one.</p> <p>D. The law probably won't pass.</p>
<p>3. Why is the data about mental issues included in the section "What's the Cost?"</p> <p>A. to explain another issue that the Australian prime minister is addressing</p> <p>B. to show a connection between social-media use and mental health</p> <p>C. to indicate a cause of social-media use</p> <p>D. to encourage readers to read another TFK article</p>	<p>6. How is the United States working to limit the risk of social media on young people?</p> <p>A. An act to ban social media for kids under 13 is moving through Congress.</p> <p>B. Some states are introducing their own laws.</p> <p>C. The U.S. has passed the same law as Australia.</p> <p>D. both A and B</p>

7. Do you think social media bans should exist? Explain.
