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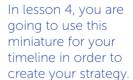
# Singer Britney Spears exposes abuses of conservatorship

LOS ANGELES - American singer Britney Spears wants to free herself of her father's conservatorship. Today she pleads her own case for the first time in a Los Angeles court. The 39-year-old star has been under her father's tutelage since 2008, meaning she has no control over her finances, her property or other aspects of her life. In court, Spears is fighting to regain this control.

Her superstar status and wealth make Spears's situation unique, but the case is certainly not an isolated one. About 1.5 million people are under conservatorship in the US. Most are over 65 years old.













about Britney Spears







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## Free menstrual pads and tampons for European girls and women from low-income families

**BRUSSELS** - The European Union has set up an initiative through which girls and women from low-income households can now purchase sanitary towels, tampons and panty liners with money from the municipality. They can request these credits via a website that will be launched next week.

This is the result of a plan initiated earlier this year by the European Commission on Poverty and Social Exclusion regarding menstrual poverty. Persons on their period who have no money for tampons or sanitary towels struggle to, for example, go to school, work a part-time job, play sports or meet up with friends. The initiative's credits will ensure such persons can buy menstrual products at the supermarket. The European Commission's plan will be part of an overarching strategic plan addressing material deprivation in poor families. By facilitating credits for people with low incomes, they can participate better in society.















about Free pads and tampons







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# Art on solar panels makes Kameleon Solar a role model for **Europe**

**AMSTERDAM** - A Van Gogh, a Vermeer, something abstract or maybe just a trendy color? The Dutch company Kameleon Solar offers these kinds of creative solutions to promote solar panels. Their initiative has been awarded a Green Feather and they are now looking at how they can lead the way in inspiring other companies in the fields of sustainability, innovation and social engagement across Europe.

Their colorful panels that rolling off the production line in Amsterdam are mainly intended for attachment to the facades of high buildings: "We saw that architects did not want to mount ugly black solar panels on facades. With our technology it is possible to integrate solar energy in buildings in an aesthetically pleasing way", says director Guust Verpaalen, "This would offer a solution in the energy supply in many other European cities without defacing the streets".











about Solar Panels Art











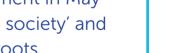


## Orbán wants to convince Hungarian women to have more children

**BUDAPEST** - Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán is using the allure of tax breaks and favorable credits, to encourage his compatriots to have more children.

Women under the age of forty who get married for the first time can borrow an amount of more than 30,000 euros under favourable conditions. Women with four children or more no longer have to pay income tax. Families with two or more children receive benefits when taking out a mortgage. If they have three children, they can buy a large car with a subsidy.

Orbán announced these measures on Sunday during his annual address to the nation. According to him, immigration is not the answer to declining birth rates in Europe, but more children of their own is. "We need Hungarian children," the prime minister said. He sees the elections to the European Parliament in May as a battle between parties that advocate a 'mixed society' and parties that want to safeguard Europe's Christian roots.











In lesson 4, you are going to use this miniature for your timeline in order to create your strategy.









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# Temporary sanitary facilities for truck drivers from Antwerp

**ANTWERP** - The municipality of Antwerp is going to install temporary sanitary facilities for truckers who live in a parking lot in Antwerp under very bad conditions. The Lithuanian drivers reside in their trucks and do not have a toilet at their disposal.

The temporary solution is the result of political questions from the political party PvdA and a motion recently adopted by the council. 'We are in consultation with one of the companies to place it on private property,' Hedebouw writes. 'In the meantime, we are looking at the possibility of expanding the facility.' According to Hedebouw, that depends on the costs and options.

The mayor further emphasizes that the current location is the only location in the municipality where a 'temporary emergency solution' is being taken.









about Sanitary facilities for

Truck drivers

NEWS















### Forget that new fence: extreme wood shortage

**EUROPE** - Problems are piling up all over Europe due to the wood shortage: in housing construction, at garden companies, wholesalers and sawmills. The main problem: a huge shortage of wood, of almost all kinds, with as a consequence exploding prices.

The shortage has three causes: housing construction, the coronavirus crisis, and the trade dispute between America and China. First of all, there is a great demand for new homes, also in this region. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many also wanted to give their own home a revamp.

After all, there is simply less raw material available. Much coniferous wood comes from Scandinavia and is now shipped directly from there overseas to America. Since the former US President, Donald Trump, introduced tariffs on goods from China, a lot of wood has been sourced from Europe.











Wood











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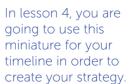
# Southern Spain ravaged by forest fires, 2500 people evacuated

MALAGA - As a precautionary measure, more than 2,500 people have been evacuated in recent days and the Spanish army has deployed soldiers to help the fire service fight the fire. The fire brigade had already deployed more than 300 firefighters and 41 firefighting planes and helicopters to bring the fire under control.

In the province of Málaga alone, in the Andalusia region, some 7,000 hectares of forest have burned down since Wednesday. Extinguishing the fire is made more difficult by the high winds and high temperatures. Authorities say there are indications that arson may be the cause. It is not clear which indications were discovered.





















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# G20 ministers fail to reach agreement on climate

The energy and environment ministers of the G20 countries failed to agree today on a joint statement on the topics discussed. Italy's presiding minister Roberto Cingolani said the countries were at a crossroads when it came to climate change commitments.

However, according to Cingolani, the ministers did not agree on two points. The heads of state of the G20 countries should discuss this further at a later time, according to the Italian minister. One of the problematic points was the choice of words for an agreement to adhere to a maximum temperature increase of 1.5 to 2 degrees. Cingolani said Russia, China and India were especially troubling on this point.



In lesson 4, you are going to use this miniature for your timeline in order to create your strategy.







about G20 on Climate Change











### Orangutan in Borneo is disappearing faster than expected

**BORNEO** - The orangutan in Borneo is not doing well. Since 1999, more than half of the island's population has disappeared. The great apes are disappearing due to a combination of deforestation, the construction of oil palm plantations and also hunting. This is according to a new study in the journal Current Biology.

The fact that hunting plays a major role in the disappearance of the orangutan was new to the researchers. "We estimate that about 1500 to 2500 orangutans are killed per year. Partly simply from hunting, when hunters encounter them they are shot. They are eaten," says naturalist Erik Meijaard.

He says that conflicts between ape and man also play a role. "Due to deforestation, the orangutans lose their natural habitat. Then they relocate to the fruit trees in the plantations. Farmers don't like that, so they shoot the apes, because the fruit is their merchandise."











about **Orangutans** in Borneo











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# Greenland halts searches for oil: bad for climate and economy

**NUUK** - Greenland has decided to halt all future oil explorations around the island due to climate concerns. Oil has no future, the government says about the decision, according to Danish media.

This decision will likely result in a lot of oil remaining under the seabed. It is estimated that there are still about eighteen billion barrels of oil in the ground just below the west coast of Greenland. The Greenland government says that the consequences of oil extraction for the climate and nature are too great. However, it is also an economic choice. "The resources we use to sustain our oil adventure are better off channelled into other parts of the economy," said Naaja H. Nathanielsen, the minister responsible for natural resources.



In lesson 4, you are going to use this miniature for your timeline in order to create your strategy.









about Greenland's search for oil





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# Qatar stadium builders work for seven months on a World Cup stadium without a salary

QATAR - Stadium builders in Qatar have worked for seven months without getting paid, human rights organization Amnesty International reports.

The report concerns a hundred foreign workers who are building the Al Bayt stadium in Al Khor. The 2022 FIFA World Cup will take place in Qatar. The opening game is on November 21. The final is four weeks later, on December 18.

The workers told Amnesty about the hardships they had endured by working for months without receiving a salary. "They are concerned about their families," said Steve Cockburn, head of the Economics and Social Justice Department at Amnesty International. "Their families depend on the money they send home from Qatar."

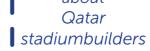








**NEWS** about













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## Child labor on the rise: 160 million children worldwide are victims

For the first time in 20 years, the number of children engaged in child labor worldwide has increased. It is estimated that there were 160 million child laborers at the beginning of last year, even before the coronavirus crisis started. That is 8.4 million more than four years prior. This is according to estimates by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and aid organization UNICEF. Since 2000, child labor has decreased by 94 million.

More than half of the children in child labor are between the ages of five and eleven. In addition, more and more children are performing hazardous work. The number of children doing hazardous work has increased from 6.5 million to 79 million in the past four years. The United Nations (UN) has set the goal to eradicate child labor within four years, but meeting this goal seems impossible.











about Rise in child labor

**NEWS** 

In lesson 4, you are going to use this miniature for your timeline in order to create your strategy.







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## Six million jobs disappeared in the EU during the first corona wave

**BRUSSELS** - The first wave of COVID-19 infection in the spring of 2020 caused the loss of about six million jobs in the European Union. This has been calculated by Eurofound, the EU service that is committed to improving working conditions. Young people, women and staff who worked on temporary contracts were particularly affected.

Eurofound adds that young people have also been hit hard, harder than during the credit crisis. On the other hand, people with a higher education in city centers more often kept their jobs. "This is driving growing inequality," the researchers said. The hardest hit countries were Spain, France, Italy, Poland and Greece. CBS previously announced that 173,000 people in the Netherlands lost their jobs as a result of the first wave of infection last spring. About two thirds of them were young people up to the age of 25.











**NEWS** 

In lesson 4, you are going to use this miniature for your timeline in order to create your strategy.

> about Jobs during COVID-19













Free sports and support for those who are overweight: Hamburg helps its residents towards a healthy lifestyle

**HAMBURG** - Much more money is spent on treating people than on preventing them from getting sick. But if healthcare is to remain affordable, prevention will have to play a much greater role. Hamburg is doing its best to promote a healthy lifestyle, and what helps this along is to make the movement cool.

Rather than just playing outside, the children do pop-ups on the sports to 'Urban Sports': freerunning, skateboarding, BMX or calisthenics. Jonas Becker is ambassador of Urban Sports in Hamburg: "To do these sports, you also have to take care of your body." The ambassadors hope to set a good example and show that being healthy is cool.

150 young German people are participating in the test round. The trajectory takes a total of 2 years, says care coordinator Mia Schmidt. "A year to learn a new lifestyle with nutrition and exercise and the second year to maintain it. The secret is time." From the reactions she is getting, she is noticing a success. "Finally someone is listening. People feel heard and seen."

















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### **Drinking fountains in Rome** closed due to extreme drought

**ROME** - Some of the "nasoni", the drinking fountains scattered throughout the Italian city of Rome, where people can get clean water for free, have been out of use since Wednesday. The extreme heat in the area has meant that there is not enough water available, Reuters reports. Thirty of the approximately 2,800 fountains are currently closed.

Not only does this mean that tourists have to buy extra water during these hot days, there is also a chance that the many homeless in the city are now dehydrated. Many of them use the water from the fountains as drinking water. The temperature in Rome will rise to well above 35 degrees this week.

Now that some of the fountains are out of use, outdated pipes are being replaced so that less water is lost. It is not known if more water fountains will be closed.











NEWS

about **Drinking** fountains in Rome







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# EU leaders agree on Russia oil boycott over Ukraine war

BRUSSELS - The EU member states have reached an agreement on a ban on the import of Russian oil by sea. The ban due to the war in Ukraine affects more than two-thirds of all oil that Russia exports to the EU, European Council President Charles Michel said at a summit in Brussels.

The EU countries have been unsuccessfully negotiating the sanction for almost four weeks. But now Russia is "cut off from a large flow of revenue for the war machine", Michel wrote on Twitter on Monday. "Maximum pressure on Russia to end the war."

The boycott will take effect at the end of this year, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen reported. Russian oil exports to the EU will then decrease by about 90 percent. This is because Germany and Poland have pledged to also waive the Russian oil they get by pipeline.











about Russian oil boycott









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#### China fights against smog

**BEIJING** - Code red is still in effect in several Chinese cities because of the smog. The measure was introduced in Beijing on Friday, due to particulate matter measurements reaching critical levels. The consequences are very noticeable on the first working day since then.

About 700 factories have had to halt production and the number of cars that are allowed on the road is limited. The police are on extra patrol to stop motorists who are in violation.

In northern China, smog is a major nuisance. Schools in dozens of cities have been closed as a precaution and hospitals have additional medical teams at the ready to quickly treat people with lung diseases.



In lesson 4, you are going to use this miniature for your timeline in order to create your strategy.







**NEWS** 

about China against smog





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# International community raises a billion euros for aid to Afghanistan

At an international UN donor conference, almost a billion euros has been pledged for aid to Afghanistan and its neighboring countries. The money will be used to build medical and sanitation facilities and to distribute food, among other things. Part is also intended for aid to countries that receive Afghan refugees.

According to UN chief Guterres, Afghans fear the entire country is about to collapse. At the end of the month, all food may be gone. According to him, 14 million people are on the brink of starvation and 93 percent of households in the country do not have enough food.



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about Aid to Afghanistan









#### **British students without** internet receive TV education

**LONDON** - The British public broadcaster is helping schools educate students who do not have an internet connection at home. In the United Kingdom severely affected by the coronavirus, classes will be offered on two channels for primary and secondary students from next Monday.

On the same day, CBBC, the BBC's children's channel, will start broadcasting a three-hour primary school program at 9:00 am. This way all children in the UK who do not have internet access can watch educational programmes on their televisions.

The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Oliver Dowden said: "The BBC has helped our country through some of its most difficult moments over the last century. And in the coming weeks, the news organization will help our children learn. This will support parents enormously in guiding their children. As a government, we are very happy with the role that the BBC is playing here."









**NEWS** 

about British TV education







