

Is TikTok Going Away?

Find out why this popular app could be banned in the U.S.

About the Story

Lexile® Measure 990L

For qualitative complexity factors, go to Scope Online.

Learning Objective: to read a short informational text, then craft a constructed response that includes a claim, text evidence, and commentary

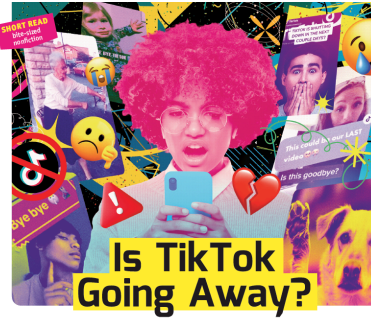
Featured Skill: constructed response

Additional skills in this lesson plan: identifying central ideas and details

Standards:

The article and its suite of support materials support these Common Core anchor standards: R.1, R.2, R.3, R.4, R.5, R.6, W.2

For more standards information—including TEKS—go to Scope Online.



The popular social media app could be banned in the United States. Here's why.
By Mary Kate Frank • Art by Sean McCabe

You're scrolling through TikTok when you see a video of a duck playing soccer. *Sooooo cute!* In the next video, a teen and her grandma dance to a hip-hop song. The older woman lip-syncs the lyrics as she spins and slides into a split. *Wow! Seconds later, you watch someone bite into a lemon and shrink. Not* With its endless supply of quirky videos and simple video-making tools, it's not hard to see why TikTok is the fastest growing social media platform in the United States. But there's something you should know: While you're having fun on the app, TikTok is collecting all kinds of information about you. It knows what you search for and what you share. It might even know what you look like and what you do. Most social media apps, including Instagram, YouTube,

and Snapchat, gather data on their users. But unlike these other companies, TikTok isn't based in the U.S. It's owned by a company in China. Because of this, U.S. officials say TikTok poses a threat to your privacy—and to the safety and security of the country.

U.S. lawmakers are so concerned that this past spring, they passed a law ordering TikTok to be sold—or face a ban in the country. *Bye, Dance*, the company that owns TikTok, says it won't sell and is fighting the ban in court.

What does all this mean for the future of TikTok?

More than 1 billion people around the world use TikTok.

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Your Teaching Package

Find your full suite of support materials at scope.scholastic.com.

Audio:

- Article read-aloud
- Text-to-speech
- Vocabulary

Video:

- "Free Speech—and Its Limits"

Activities to print, project, or share digitally:

- Vocabulary: Definitions and Practice
- Short Write Kit
- Core Skills Workout: Central Ideas and Details
- Quiz*

Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

1. Prepare to Read (10 minutes)

Do Now: Journal and Discuss (5 minutes)

Project the following prompt on your board for students to respond to in their journals and/or in discussion.

According to the Pew Research Center, a majority of U.S. teens use TikTok. About 6 in 10 teens (63%) say they use the app. More than half of teens (58%) use it daily, including 17% who say they're on TikTok "almost constantly."

- *Do you use TikTok? If so, what do you like about this app? Is there anything you dislike about it?*
- *What do you think would happen if TikTok suddenly disappeared? How do you think people would react?*

Preview Vocabulary (5 minutes)

Project the Google Slides version of **Vocabulary: Definitions and Practice** on your whiteboard. Review the definitions and complete the activity as a class. Highlighted words: *Congress, data, opt out, sensitive, violate*. Audio pronunciations of the words and a read-aloud of the definitions are embedded on the slides. Optionally, print the PDF version or share the slideshow link directly to your LMS and have students preview the words and complete the activity independently before class.

2. Read and Discuss (20 minutes)

- For students' first read, have them follow along as they listen to the **audio read-aloud**, located in the Resources tab in Teacher View and at the top of the story page in Student View.
- Have students read the story again.
- Optionally, divide students into groups to complete the **Core Skills Workout: Central Ideas and Details** activity. This graphic organizer asks students to identify the central idea and supporting details of each section of the article and the central idea of the article as a whole.

3. Write About It

(20 minutes)

Have students complete the **Short Write Kit**. This activity can be used to guide students as they write a claim, support it with text evidence, and provide commentary in response to the prompt on page 11 in the printed magazine and at the bottom of the digital story page:

Should TikTok be banned in the U.S.? Answer this question in a well-organized paragraph. Use text evidence.