



# Dinnertime News



## Today's News is Tomorrow's History

### Day 1

In 1994 the US, Canada, and Mexico made a deal that said they would be trading partners. This means, each country would partner with the others to make it easy to buy and sell things. That deal was called NAFTA, the *North American Free Trade Agreement*. Recently President Trump decided that NAFTA needed to be changed and he created a new deal that he thought would be better for the US. This is the USMCA (United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement) One of the things this new agreement does is protect more rights of indigenous people, and help the dairy industry more.

Q. Why do you think we need trade agreements with other countries?

#### Vocabulary to explore:

Tariff, Indigenous

### Day 2

In a recent Instagram post, popular pop artist Taylor Swift encouraged her fans to get out and vote. This charge encouraged thousands of people to register to vote. Taylor Swift's post and outspoken comments has brought a lot of visibility to voter registration and the upcoming elections. Taylor Swift also vowed to vote for two specific candidates and shared why she wouldn't be voting for the others.

Q. Do you think popular artist should use their influence in the political world? Why or Why not?

Q. What might be the positive or negative ramifications of an artist doing this?

### Day 3

Last week hurricane Michael hit the Florida panhandle as one of the most destructive storms in Florida history. Authorities urged residents to evacuate to safer areas before the storm hit. About 2,500 National Guard troops were deployed to assist with evacuations and storm preparations, and more than 4,000 others were on standby.

Q. Do you think residents should be forced to leave their homes if they don't want to? Why or Why not?

Q. Should emergency personnel help those who find themselves in trouble when they chose to stay behind?

### Day 4

On July 1st, 2018 Plastic drinking straws were banned in Seattle, Washington. Starbucks was among several businesses that followed suit saying they would begin to phase out using plastic straws. Plastic has been known to be harmful to the environment. Many communities have already banned the use of plastic bags for the same reason.

Q. Do you think the government has the right to decide whether or not individuals can buy or use certain products like straws and plastic bags?

Q. What responsibility do we have to take care of the environment.

### Day 5

On October 8th the City of San Francisco made the decision that instead of celebrating Columbus Day they would instead celebrate Indigenous People's Day. For many years Columbus Day has been met with much controversy. History says that Columbus never even stepped foot in what is now known as America. The closest he ever came was the Caribbean Islands. History also tells of how he mistreated the indigenous people. These are a few of the reasons San Francisco sites for the change of focus. Currently only 25 states celebrate the holiday as Columbus Day. Italian Americans disagree with San Francisco's move and say instead that Columbus Day celebrates the history of immigration and not the explorer.

Q. Should we cease celebrating Columbus Day as is? Why or Why not? Q. Is it important to "celebrate" special days at all?