



LOOK CLOSER FIRST NEWS LIVE!

UNITED KIDS OF AMERICA



Christopher isn't the only child in America (or indeed the world) who wants their voice heard

MEET CHRISTOPHER, ONE OF AMERICA'S YOUNGEST ANTI-GUN CAMPAIGNERS

In the week that America elects its new president, *First News* finds out more about gun control in America. Meet nine-year-old Christopher, one of America's youngest anti-gun campaigners



GUNS IN AMERICA

Unlike here in the UK, in America it's fairly easy to get your hands on a gun if you want one – if you're an adult (over the age of 18). This is because American law states that citizens have the right to "keep and bear arms (have a weapon)". It's been this way since the beginnings of the country in 1776.

CHRISTOPHER'S STORY

Gun laws and gun violence in America have been a big talking point during the 2016 presidential election. The two main candidates disagree on the issue: Hillary Clinton would like to tighten gun laws but Donald Trump disagrees.

Christopher is nine years old and lives in Queens, a borough of New York City.

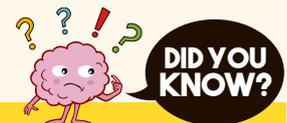
Tragically, Christopher's older brother was shot and killed on his way to a graduation party.

"I miss everything about him. He was always a kind, sweet brother to me," he told *First News*.

Since the tragic loss of his brother, Christopher has been fighting to end gun violence. He and his mum turned their pain into action and began protesting against gun violence in America. Christopher recently marched across Brooklyn Bridge with thousands of adults, demanding more protection from gun violence.

At just nine years old (younger than many *First News* readers), Christopher is one of America's youngest anti-gun campaigners.

"If gun violence can affect my family, it can affect other people's families," said Christopher.



MATTHEW Barzun, the US Ambassador to the UK, recently told *First News*: "Two-thirds of Americans don't own a gun. So 200 million Americans don't own a gun, against 100 million Americans that do. The vast, vast, vast majority of that 100 million are law-abiding citizens. You have 10,000 deaths a year in our country with someone killing someone else with a gun, and that is 10,000 too many."



FIRST NEWS LIVE!

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) Why is it so easy for an adult to get a gun in the USA?

2) What does the prefix 'anti' mean?

ABOVE

AGAINST

WRONGLY

3) What sad event caused Christopher to campaign against guns?

4) Find and copy the words which explain how Christopher feels about his brother.

5) What do Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton think about the country's gun laws?

6) Nothing will bring Christopher's brother back. Why does he campaign for stricter gun laws?

7) True or false?

TRUE OR FALSE?	TRUE	FALSE
Matthew Barzun is the vice-president of America.		
Christopher lives in Queens, New York.		
The United States of America was founded in 1776.		
5,000 people are killed by gunshots in the USA every year.		

LOOK AT WHAT THE US AMBASSADOR SAYS ABOUT GUN OWNERSHIP IN AMERICA.

8) How many millions of people **do not** own a gun in America?

How many millions of people **own** a gun in America?

What **fraction** of people **own** a gun?

9) Look closely at what the US Ambassador says.

Find one argument which **supports** gun ownership.

Find one argument which could be used to argue **against** gun ownership.

10) The issue of guns in America is an extremely hot topic. Many Americans think that guns provide self-defence and keep people safe. Others argue that many tragedies could be avoided if there weren't so many guns around. If you were American, how do you think you would feel about this subject?



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FIRST NEWS LIVE!

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

A) FIRST NEWS LIVE!

If you would like to find out more about the big issues facing America's young people at a time when the world's eyes are fixed on the country, have a look at the United Kids of America section of *First News Live!* which you can find on our website.

It includes a video explaining this week's US election, a film about Christopher, and many others.

live.firstnews.co.uk/united-kids-of-america

THE FLAG OF THE USA



The USA flag is one of the most famous flags in the world. Can you find out more about it by answering these quick questions?

- Why does it have 50 stars in the corner?
- Why does it have 13 red and white stripes?
- Can you find three nicknames for the flag?
- For bonus points: what used to be in the top-left corner of the earliest American flag (called the Grand Union flag)?



FIRST NEWS LIVE!

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS

News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage children, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom.

The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for a wide range of reading skills to be practised each week. These skills should fit within most schools' reading and literacy programmes.

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE

The teacher answers are intended to provide a guide to the reading skill each question is practising. Suggestions are given for a STARTING POINT response that pupils could give. Further suggestions then give a fuller, more DEVELOPED RESPONSE that students will work towards to reach and exceed the floor standards required at the end of primary school. For a list of these reading skills used to reference questions, please email schools@firstnews.co.uk.

Answers

1) Why is it so easy for an adult to get a gun in the USA?

READING SKILL: Find and explain information

(NC 2a / SATs CD 2b(i & ii) / AF2)

Starting point:

- *It's in the law.*
- *It's always been easy since the beginning of the country.*

Correctly identified information:

- *Since the beginning of the country, American law has stated that citizens have the right to 'bear arms' or have a weapon.*

2) What does the prefix 'anti' mean?

above against wrongly

READING SKILL: Understand vocabulary in context

(NC 2a / SATs CD 2a)

- *against*

3) What sad event caused Christopher to campaign against guns?

READING SKILL: Find and explain information

(NC 2a / SATs CD 2b(i & ii) / AF2)

Starting point:

- *His brother was killed.*

Correctly identified information:

- *His brother was shot and killed on his way to a graduation?*

4) Find and copy the words which explain how Christopher feels about his brother.

READING SKILL: Find and explain information

(NC 2a / SATs CD 2b(i & ii) / AF2)

Starting point:

- *I miss him*
- *He was kind and sweet*

Correctly identified information:

- *Christopher says: "I miss everything about him. He was always a kind, sweet brother to me."*

5) What do Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton think about the country's gun laws?

READING SKILL: Find and explain information

(NC 2a / SATs CD 2b(i & ii) / AF2)

Starting point:

- They disagree

Correctly identified information:

- They have different opinions: Hillary Clinton wants to tighten gun laws but Donald Trump disagrees

6) Nothing will bring Christopher's brother back. Why does he campaign for stricter gun laws?

READING SKILL: Infer information and justify with evidence

(NC 2c & 8 / SATs CD 2d(ii) / AF3)

Starting point:

- He's so upset about his brother.
- To stop it happening again.

Developed response:

- He doesn't want other families to go through what he's been through. He wants to try and stop the violence.

7) True or false?

READING SKILL: Find and explain information

(NC 2a / SATs CD 2b(i & ii) / AF2)

Correctly identified information:

- Matthew Barzun is the vice-president of America. - False
- Christopher lives in Queens, New York. - True
- The United States of America was founded in 1776. - True
- 5,000 people are killed by gunshots in the USA every year. - False

Look at what the US Ambassador says about gun ownership in America.

READING SKILL: Find and explain information

(NC 2a / SATs CD 2b(i & ii) / AF2)

Correctly identified information:

- 8) How many millions of people **do not** own a gun in America? **200 million**
 How many millions of people **do own** a gun in America? **100 million**
 What **fraction** of people **own** a gun? **a third of people**

9) Look closely at what the US Ambassador says.

Find one argument which **supports** gun ownership.

Find one argument which could be used to argue **against** gun ownership.

READING SKILL: Infer information and justify with evidence

(NC 2c & 8 / SATs CD 2d(ii) / AF3)

Starting point:

- For: Most people don't break the law and shoot people.
- Against: Lots of people die because of guns.

Developed response

- For: Although 100 million people own guns, the vast, vast, vast majority of those people are law-abiding citizens.
- Against: 10,000 people die in the country every year because they are shot by a gun.

10) The issue of guns in America is an extremely hot topic. Many Americans think that guns provide self-defence and keep people safe. Others argue that many tragedies could be avoided if there weren't so many guns around.

If you were American, how do you think you would feel about this subject?

READING SKILL: Develop personal ideas from reading news stories

(NC 6, 7 & 8)

Starting point ideas:

- I wouldn't want so many guns around – they are too dangerous.
- I would want more gun laws to protect me and my family.

Developed response ideas:

- *I think I would want more gun laws. A lot of people own guns in America and they are very dangerous. It doesn't seem right.*
- *I think it would be better if fewer people owned guns and the gun laws were tightened, to stop tragedies like Christopher's story.*