



# This week's big news

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Three US presidents have been impeached – Andrew Johnson, Bill Clinton and Donald Trump. None have been removed from office.



Trump supporters storm the Capitol building.

## Democrats win Senate

Raphael Warnock



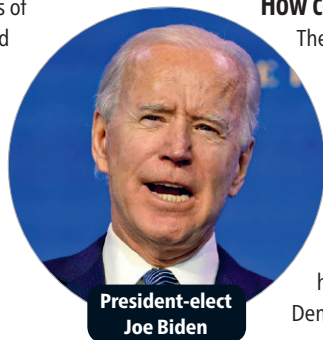
On 6 January, it was confirmed that the Democrats had won control of the Senate (part of Congress which is a bit like the UK Parliament). This was after two Democratic Party candidates were elected in the state of Georgia. Each US state is represented by two senators. The Senate is now split 50/50 between Democrats and Republicans, yet the new US vice president Kamala Harris, a Democrat, has a tiebreaker vote. Raphael Warnock is Georgia's first black senator.

# Calls to remove President Trump after Capitol riots

Politicians in the US are calling for President Donald Trump to be removed from power after a riot broke out in Washington D.C. on 6 January.

## What happened?

On 6 January, Trump held a rally in Washington D.C., where he told his supporters to march towards the Capitol. The Capitol is where Congress meets. Congress is made up of members of the House of Representatives and members of the Senate, and is where new laws are decided (like Parliament in the UK). Trump's supporters broke into the building and the politicians inside had to be rushed to safety. There were clashes between police and the rioters, and five people died.



President-elect Joe Biden

## Why do people want to remove Trump from power?

Trump is accused of encouraging the violent scenes and trying to stop Congress from confirming Joe Biden's election victory. Biden, who was the

Democratic Party's nominee for president, won last year's presidential election. Trump says the election was unfair, despite having no evidence to support this. After the rioters were removed from the building, Congress came back together that evening. They confirmed Biden as the next president and Kamala Harris as the next vice president.

## How could Trump be removed?

The Democrats have called on the vice president, Mike Pence, to use the 25th Amendment. This is part of the US Constitution that allows the vice president to take over if the president cannot perform his or her duties. A constitution is a set of rules that a country bases its laws on. Pence has said he will not do this, so the Democrats will try to impeach Trump.

## What is impeachment?

Impeachment is when Congress puts the president on trial for committing crimes. If a majority in the House of Representatives votes for it, then Trump will be impeached and face trial in the Senate. If

two thirds or more of the Senate finds Trump guilty, then he will be replaced. Trump has been impeached before but was found not guilty in 2020. He would be the first US president to be impeached twice. At the time *The Week Junior* went to press, an impeachment vote was due to take place on 13 January.

## What was the response to the riots?

People across the US, including politicians from Trump's Republican Party, have criticised the rioting. Lisa Murkowski was the first Republican senator to call on Trump to resign. President-elect Biden called it a dark day. At least 70 people involved in the unrest have been arrested and charged with criminal offences, but questions have also been raised about the lack of security at the Capitol.

## What happens next?

On 20 January Biden will be inaugurated (sworn in) as the next US president. There will be extra security at the event, in case of further protests. If Trump is impeached, some legal experts say that a trial in the Senate could still take place even when he is no longer president. The Senate could then vote to stop Trump from being able to run for president again.

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Once you have read the article,  
try any of the following activities...

## Hold a debate

Donald Trump's supporters in the United States government have been arguing that he shouldn't be impeached (a special form of punishment) because he will very soon be leaving office anyway. Doesn't that make good sense, as many Americans are very disappointed that he lost the election and might get even more angry? Wouldn't it be better for the country if he is just allowed to leave quietly, even though most of them admit that it was wrong of him to encourage the rioters to try to overturn the election? Or do you think that his wrongdoing should be punished, even though his time as president will very soon be over? After all, would you expect to be let off if you had seriously broken the rules, just because you were going to change school next week? What do you think?

## Writing challenge!

Choose one of the following writing warm-ups.

**1** Some people say that Mr Trump has been behaving like a sore loser since the election. Write a funny playscript-style piece of dialogue between a referee and a football coach who is being a sore loser after his team was defeated in an important match.

or

**2** Think of a time when you really did not want to stop something you were enjoying or had to leave somewhere before you were ready to go. Write a recount of the events, explaining how you were feeling, how you were persuaded to leave and how well you coped with the disappointment.

## Investigate

What is the national anthem of the United States of America? Research it, read it, then write a brief summary of the events that led to it being written.