## Name

**K** EY

**T** ERMS

These are key terms from this week’s rap. Each word or phrase connects to the week’s news

in a significant way. Complete the chart below by describing how each term relates to the news.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Term** | **How it Relates to the Week’s News** |
| The Oscars | *Example: The Oscars were held last Sunday night.*  Answer: |
| *Birdman* | Answer: |
| citizens | Answer: |
| Keystone pipeline | Answer: |
| vetoed | Answer: |
| Recruiting new members | Answer: |
| DNA | Answer: |
| Freezeway | Answer: |

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**GENERAL**VOCABULARY

Some words from the lyrics are used to describe a specific news story, but you can also use them in lots of other places and contexts. Learning these words and their meanings will help you expand your vocabulary.

Guess what the meaning of the word is based on how it’s used in the rap, and then compare it with the actual definition. When you’re done, use each of the words in a sentence that doesn’t have anything to do with The Week in Rap.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **In Lyrics** | **Guess Meaning** | **Actual Meaning** |
| ***pits*** | *That pits the president against Republicans.* | Answer: | Answer: |
| ***meta*** | *If you didn’t see it, know that it was pretty “meta”* | Answer: | Answer: |
| ***vetoed*** | *But Obama vetoed it and said “No go!”* | Answer: | Answer: |
| ***detained*** | *And in Spain four members were detained* | Answer: | Answer: |

# Word

Answer:

***pits***

# Sentence

Answer:

***meta***

Answer:

***vetoed***

Answer:

***detained***



**Q**&**A**

THE **WEEK** IN **RAP** 2.27.2015

Read the info boxes from this week’s Week in Rap and answer the questions. To read more about

each story, follow the link to the newspaper article in the info box on flocabulary.com.

**T**he Academy Awards, also called the Os- cars, is an annual awards ceremony, honoring actors, directors and many others who work in the movie in- dustry. Last Sunday, they held their 87th ceremony. This year’s big winners were *Birdman* and *Boyhood*. They each won four Oscars, but *Birdman* was given the night’s big honor, winning the best picture award. Both movies took very unique approaches. *Boyhood* was filmed over 12 years’ time to allow the actors to naturally age. *Birdman* was filmed to look like it was one continuous shot, with the camera never cutting away. The main character in *Birdman* was played by the actor Michael Keaton. He also played Batman in the 1992 movie *Batman Returns*. In *Birdman*, Kea- ton plays an actor who had once been the star in

a superhero series. When a work of art talks about itself — like a movie about making a movie — it’s “self-referential.” That is, it is referring to itself. This is also called “meta.”

**T**here are over 11 million immigrants, or non-Americans, in the US who came into the country illegally. Some of them came here as children with their parents, or have been here for many years. Last year, President Obama used his power as president to make changes to the US’s immigration policy. He wanted to allow some of the immigrants, like those who immigrated as kids, to become US citizens. Republicans felt that Obama had abused his power

when he changed the policy. The day before the new policy was supposed to start, a federal judge ruled that Obama hadn’t changed the policy lawfully. Now his policy isn’t being implemented. Obama took to the road to try to drum up support for his immigration reform plans. He traveled to Miami to attend town hall meetings and give TV interviews. He said that those who would have been protected under his plan shouldn’t be afraid of getting deported.

## In what ways is the movie *Birdman* “meta?”

## Answer:

**Why do you think the president went to Miami to try to gain support for his immigration plan?**

Answer:



**Q**&**A**

THE **WEEK** IN **RAP** 2.27.2015

**S**ince 2008, Republicans and Democrats have been fighting over the construction of a huge oil pipeline that would run from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. It’s called the Keystone XL pipeline. Congress passed a bill that allowed the Keystone pipeline to be built. Republicans believe the pipeline will help create more jobs. But President Obama vetoed the bill, saying that he wanted more infor- mation about the pipeline’s environmental impacts.

Those opposing the pipeline believe it will contrib- ute to climate change and harm the environment.

**I**n Iraq and Syria, ISIS has been seizing control of cities in order to establish an indepen- dent Islamic state. In order to gain more power, they recruit members. About 20,000 people from around the world have traveled to the Middle East to join ISIS. It is believe that about 3,400 of these people are from Western countries. ISIS has been accused of trying to recruit people online and by holding meetings in people’s homes. In Spain, four

people were arrested for trying to recruit women to join ISIS. About 80 Spanish citizens have traveled to Syria to join the movement, and about a dozen people have returned. Some of the people who re- turned have also been arrested. Recently in the US, two men from Brooklyn, NY, were arrested for planning to travel to the Middle East to join ISIS. A third man, also from Brooklyn, has been accused of helping to organize and fund ISIS activities.

## How might the pipeline harm the environment? How might the pipeline create more jobs?

Answer:

**Why do you think people from Western countries would want to join ISIS?**

Answer:

THE **WEEK** IN **RAP** 2.27.2015

**Q**&**A**

**M**ark Shriver, a professor at Penn State University, has created software that can create a drawing of a person’s face by analyzing their DNA. DNA is short for deoxyribonucleic acid. It’s a mole- cule that contains the genetic instructions that give people their character traits and physical features. By analyzing a person’s DNA, the software creates a portrait of them within minutes. It tries to accu- rately predict features like skin color, the shape of

one’s eyes and nose, and general bone structure.

**I**n Canada, the city of Edmonton is plan- ning to create a seven-mile long path for ice skat- ing during the winter. They’re calling it the “Freeze- way,” and it would allow people to commute through the city on ice skates. People could skate to work, school or hockey games. The architect behind the plan said that the Freezeway would en- courage winter activity, sustainable transportation and social gathering. The city is currently deciding

whether it will test the plan next winter.

## If this technology is perfected, what do you think it could be used for?

## Answer:

**What do you think are the pros and cons of the Freezeway?**

Answer:

THE **WEEK** IN **RAP** 2.27.2015

## Name

**Monthly Trivia Quiz**

It’s been a long month. How much do you remember?

➊**This team** won the Super Bowl.

Answer:

➋**This author** is planning to publish a sequel to *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Answer:

➌**This virus** appears to be under control in West Africa.

Answer:

➍Scientists in Iceland are working on pumping **this gas** into the ground.

Answer:

➎**This news anchor** was suspended for embellishing a story.

Answer:

1. Emissions from **this country** are traveling across the ocean to California.

Answer:

➐**This city** saw snow fall that reached 15 feet.

Answer:

➑**This African country** went on the offensive against Boko Haram.

Answer:

1. President Obama vetoed a bill that would have approved **this pipeline**.

Answer:

➓Scientists can determine what a person’s face looks like from **this molecule**.

Answer: