

# NEWS CYCLE

## WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

### Could China use TikTok to gather information about people?



TikTok is a Chinese app that lets users share short, fun video clips. It has been downloaded over 2 billion times and is one of the fastest-growing social platforms in the world.

The app collects a lot of data from its users including which videos someone watches, where someone is and what they copy and paste. Although other apps also collect data, several countries are worried about the amount TikTok gathers. They think the Chinese government will force the app to share information about its users without the users' permission. Some people think that the Chinese government could use this information to keep track of people.

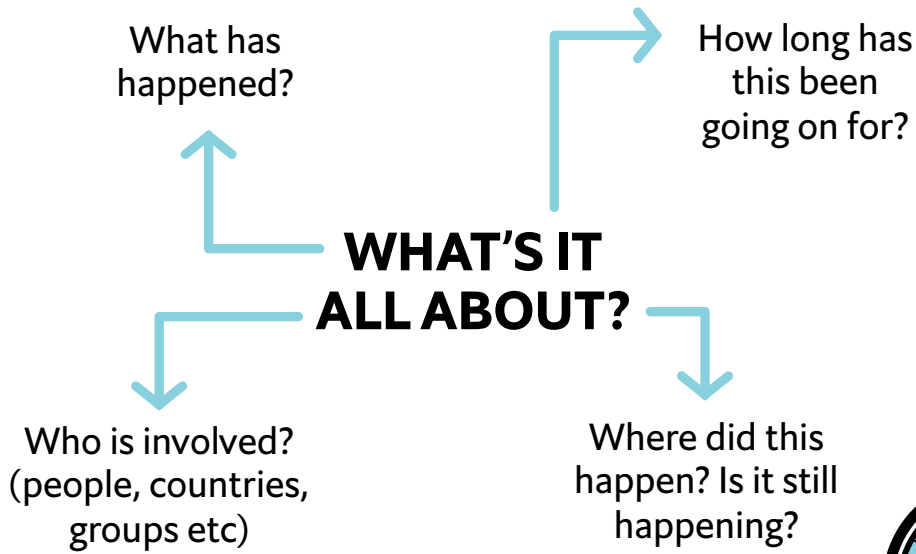
TikTok has been asked about how safe people's data are because it is illegal to collect data without permission in many countries, including the UK. The company said it would "definitely say no" if the Chinese government asked the firm to share data with it. However, there is also a strict law in China that everyone must co-operate with the government if it asks for something.

In June, India banned the app (along with some other Chinese apps) for national-security reasons and Britain is looking into whether it breaks privacy rules too. Donald Trump is due to ban TikTok from mid-September, unless it is bought by an American company, to stop the Chinese government from seeing information about American users.

At the time of writing, TikTok is set to begin legal action to challenge the ban imposed by President Trump.

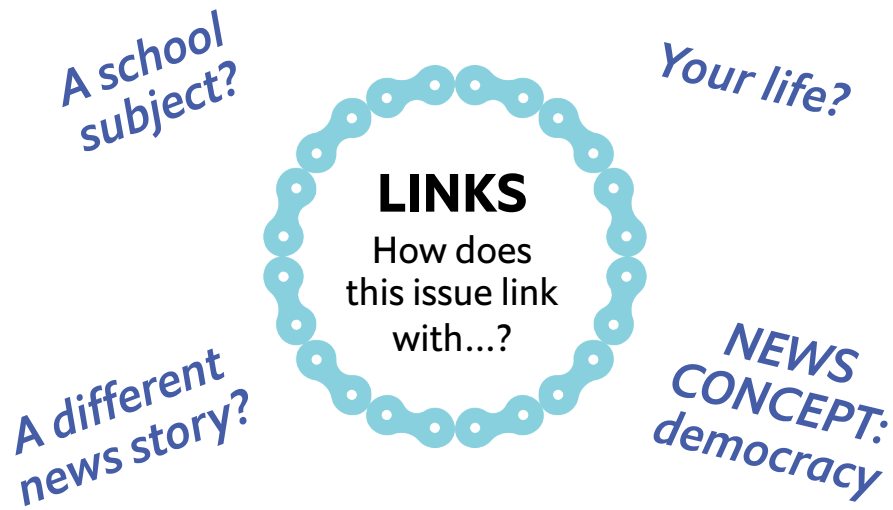
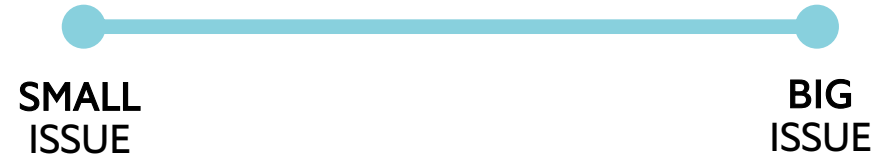
Want to know more about this? Look here! [bbc.co.uk/newsround/53664131](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/53664131)





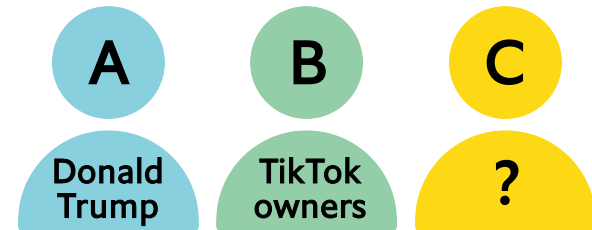
**NEWS SCALE**

Is this a big issue for you? Mark your opinion on the scale below with a **X**. What about someone in America who earns a lot of money from TikTok. Where would they place their **X**? What about someone who doesn't have a smartphone?



**PERSPECTIVE FLIP**

What would Person A think about this issue? How are they affected by the issue? Now flip to B and think about the same questions. Are there any perspectives missing?



**CHALLENGE:** how is this issue developing in the news?

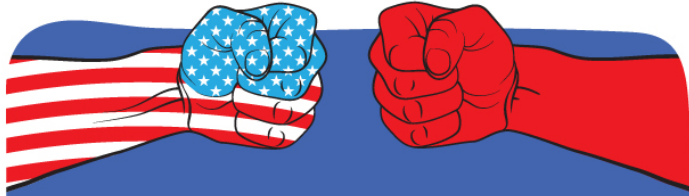
## NEWS CYCLE WEEK 2 OF 2 **THINKING HARDER**

First, limber up by thinking about everything you learnt last week:

- What was the key information about this issue? (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?)
- Why was this issue news? (How big was this piece of news? How many people does it affect? Is it global or local news?)
- What did you think about it? Did everyone you talked to have the same opinion?
- What have you seen about this in the news? How is this issue developing?

Then, take a ride through this week's activities.

# WHAT'S THE FULL STORY?



America and China have argued for a long time about trade, the coronavirus and China's unfair treatment of some groups of people. America has put strict trade rules on China to show it disagrees with some of the government's decisions.

**Many members of the Chinese government believe that America wants to stop China from becoming richer and more powerful than the United States.**



**China has threatened that there could be consequences for countries that treat it as an enemy. Both America and Britain would lose a lot of money if China stopped trading with them.**

Xi Jinping,  
President of the  
People's Republic  
of China

Shutterstock.com /  
Frederic Legrand - COMEO

The British government has banned a **different** Chinese company called Huawei from helping to build Britain's 5G mobile-phone networks. Boris Johnson, Britain's prime minister, believes that there is a high risk that the Chinese government could use the network to gather information on the public.

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There are  
**80 million**  
TikTok users in America.

Although it would cost a lot, if an American company bought the app, it could earn a lot of money.



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## TURN THE COGS

1. This issue is about more than just an app.  
Can you explain the bigger picture?
2. Why might America ban TikTok?  
Why might an American company buy it?
3. Look at each fact on the previous page and think about...
  - Who is right?
  - Who is wrong?

**Support your answers with a fact and explain why.**

## SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS



What questions do you have about this issue?  
Where could you look for the answers?



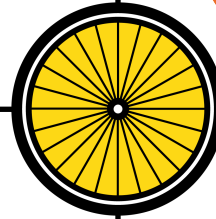
Do you think that TikTok should be banned?  
Give reasons to support your opinion



Is there a better way that countries could approach  
this other than banning Chinese-technology?



If a country lets TikTok continue to operate, what  
would the consequences be? If a country kept  
TikTok, what would the consequences be?



## PUSH YOURSELF

**On November 3rd 2020 American voters will choose their president. Young voters this year will play a big part in that choice.**

In America, 59% of people aged 18 - 29 are against banning TikTok.  
Out of all Americans, 57% see China as an economic competitor.

- If Donald Trump bans TikTok, how might this affect the result of the election?
- If Donald Trump creates a deal for an American company to buy TikTok, how might this affect the result of the election?

## TYRE CHANGE

**Brakes on! Let's change the scenario.**



China could  
prove that it was  
not using  
technology to  
spy on other  
countries?



China had a  
piece of  
technology that  
we needed that  
no other country  
could help with?



The Chinese  
government was  
collecting data  
to protect its  
citizens?

**Challenge: can you spot this issue in the news? How has the issue developed since last week?**