The Short Read is a fascinating informational text that can be done in just one period. Similar to what students will encounter on standardized tests, it’s perfect practice for constructed-response questions.

1 Preparing to Read
Project the Words and Definitions handout and preview the vocabulary.

2 Reading and Discussing
Read the article as a class. Alternatively, you can play the audio version while students follow along in their printed issues.

3 Doing the Activity
Have students work in small groups to complete the activity at the end of the article. They will write a claim, find a piece of text evidence, and explain why that evidence supports their claim.

4 Writing
• To go deeper, use the Short Write Kit at Scope Online. First, project the How to Answer a Constructed-Response Question handout and review it as a class. Then have students work on their own or in groups to complete the self-guided writing activity Constructing a Response.
  • Have students use their completed activities to craft their own constructed responses.

Common Core ELA Anchor Standards:
R.1, R.2, R.4, R.6, W.1, W.4, W.5, L.4, L.6
For more standards info, including TEKS, go to Scope Online.