

Lesson 2: Understanding the Newspaper

Newspaper Focus: Identifiable Sections (local news; arts; sports; editorial; etc.).

Background — Your students will be somewhat familiar with the newspaper even if they have not studied it in class or if they don't read it on a regular basis. They may have a limited understanding of headlines and news stories, but they may be unaware of the depth and breadth of information available to readers in each day's newspaper. The purpose of this lesson is to familiarize students with the newspaper in preparation for the other lessons that follow. This activity has two parts. In the first, students will go on a scavenger hunt to find specific newspaper elements. In the second part of the activity, students will analyze elements they find in one section of the newspaper. They then will share their findings with the class.

Pre-K-2

A. PROCESS OF READING

5. Figure out unknown words using a variety of strategies including rereading, context clues, and knowledge of word structures and letter-sound relationships.

B. LITERATURE AND CULTURE

4. Distinguish between fiction and nonfiction.

C. LANGUAGE AND IMAGES

3. Make valid observations about the use of words and visual symbols.

H. RESEARCH-RELATED WRITING AND SPEAKING

1. Develop a search strategy which uses appropriate and available resources.

3-4

C. LANGUAGE AND IMAGES

1. Identify and evaluate how language use varies according to personal situations and settings (e.g., school, home, and community).

4. Make observations about the use of language and graphic symbols encountered in various real-life situations.

6. Make observations about specific uses and idioms of language.

D. INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

3. Read for a variety of purposes (e.g., to answer specific questions, to form an opinion, to skim for information).

H. RESEARCH-RELATED WRITING AND SPEAKING

2. Use print and non-print resources (e.g., encyclopedias, dictionaries, people, indexes) to gather information on research topics.

To make the activity more advanced or appropriate for 3-4, have students find these additional parts of a newspaper:

Advertisement
Cartoon
Columnist
Lead Story
Photographer
Reporter