

Don't Lose Your Way in the News

Purpose

Students will learn the organization of newspapers and how to use a newspaper index.

Materials

For the teacher: chalk, chalkboard

For each student: copies of same edition of daily newspaper, pencil or marker

Activity

A. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Tell students that the class will be discussing newspapers today.
2. Ask students where they have seen newspapers. If they are having difficulty, prompt them with locations: in homes, on the street, in wastebaskets, in craft classes.
3. Ask students why the newspapers are in these places.
[Newspapers are delivered to homes because readers want easy access, newspapers are in wastebaskets because the news changes and is printed every day, etc.]
4. Talk about what is communicated through newspapers.
Ask students why people need to know this information.

B. Seek and Find

1. Show students a newspaper and ask them what they know about the way that information in newspapers is organized.
2. Ask students what the different sections are and how they find them.
3. Show students the index.
4. Have one of the students tell you what his/her favorite section of the newspaper is and model finding it using the index.

C. Play the Game

1. Distribute a newspaper to each student, along with pencils and paper to write on.
2. Tell students that they will be going on a newspaper scavenger hunt. Explain that they will be given a list of things to find within a set amount of time.

(continued)

EXTENDING
THE



ACTIVITY

Have students participate in a Newspapers in Education (NIE) program. Discuss the most interesting piece of information that they learn from each day's paper.

INCORPORATING



TECHNOLOGY

Using the search feature, have students explore an online version of a local or national newspaper. Compare the online version to the newsprint version.

Standards Link
4.2.1

Activity (continued)

3. Choose two students to be the judges – the people who will check answers when the other students are done.
4. Have students find the following items as quickly as possible and circle them:
 - the make of a used car that is for sale
 - a birthday ad
 - an editorial cartoon
 - the latest showing of a certain movie
 - tomorrow's weather
 - an advice column
 - information about an art event
 - the headline of a local story
5. Give clues to students if they need help.
6. Have students show their circled responses to the judges.


D. Close the Activity


1. Have students identify topics that will most likely appear in tomorrow's newspaper.
2. Allow the students to take their papers with them to read during free time if they choose.

Questions for Review

Basic Concepts and Processes

After the game, assess students' knowledge by asking the following questions:

 What are two sections you might find in a newspaper?

 Can you look up today's weather for me? Can you find an editorial?

 What is a newspaper index for?

 Why are newspapers important to us?
