



Overview:

Newspapers across the country are in trouble as more and more people get their news from the Internet and TV. In this week's NewsDepth you learn that a major paper in Denver, Colorado, the Rocky Mountain News, folded last Friday after 150 years and 311 days. Despite this unfortunate turn of events for this legendary news source and others across the country, March 2-6 is being celebrated as **Newspapers in Education Week**. This special week reminds us of how important it is to read the newspaper. Students will be informed about just how much useful information is found in the newspaper and how they can constantly learn new skills as they read.

Grade levels: 4-6

Subject: Language Arts

Standards:

Students will read a wide range of print and non-print texts to build an understanding of texts, themselves and cultures of the United States and the world.

Students will read a variety of narrative and information texts independently.

Students will identify structural features of popular media.

Classroom Activities:



1. Activity #1: You Need to Know

- Discussion about what students need to know: Think for a minute about what you and your family need to know, or want to know, each day.
 - What is the weather going to be like?
 - Are there any good movies showing today that we could go see?
 - Who won our high school's basketball game last night?
 - What's up with my favorite comic strip character?
 - Did anything important happen in our community yesterday?
 - Are there any good recipes your family can prepare for dinner?
 - How are businesses doing in your mom or dad's area of work?
- You can most certainly find all of this information on the Internet or on TV, but what if you don't have access to either of these? What if you want to just sit down to read and reread something curled up in a comfortable chair

somewhere? And what if you want to keep a copy of an important article in your scrapbook?

- How many of you read the newspaper? Why or why not? Do you have the paper delivered to your home? Do any of you or your family read your local newspaper online? Are any of you paper boys or girls?
- You can find something in the newspaper that has to do with every part of your life. Pass out copies of newspapers to your students (they can share) or use the overhead. What kinds of information can you discover in the newspaper? (Info about school, entertainment, family, sports, health, travel, etc.) What kinds of information are you most inclined to read?
- Assign students in pairs to find an article that interests them. Have them read the article at their seats and summarize in a couple of sentences what the article says.



2. Activity #2: If You Were a Reporter

- Being a reporter takes specialized skill. What kind of skills would you need to be able to inform people about something important that happened or is about to happen? How would you learn or acquire those skills?
- You just watched NewsDepth. You are a reporter for your class newspaper. See if you can remember enough details about one of the features to write a story for your paper. What is different about hearing or watching a news story on TV or the radio and reading about it in the paper? Do you think it would be easier to be a newspaper reporter or a reporter for TV? Which one do you think would be a more interesting job? Why?

3. Activities: Teaching with the Newspaper

- The National Education Association this week offers ten additional reasons -- in the form of ten terrific classroom activities -- for you to use newspapers in your classroom to teach all sorts of valuable skills -- including reading and writing for meaning, map reading, media literacy, sequencing, word meaning, and math.
- The site is provided by Education World
http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson139.shtml

Additional Resources

http://www.capitalnewspapers.com/readers/nie_lesson.php - the website
<http://www.capitalnewspapers.com/pdf/nie%20week%202009%20guide.pdf>
-the teacher's guide

In honor of this week, Capital Newspapers have made a new teacher's guide available free from their website that can be used anytime of the year. Newspapers in Education Wikispace. This is a free site, but you will need to register.

<http://corporate.classroom.com/newslettersamples/NewspapersintheClassroom.pdf>

Online newspaper resources: Students learn best when they are motivated and when the topics they study are interesting and relevant to their lives. In a growing number of classrooms, newspapers are providing some of the best motivational and timely resources. Over 500 U.S. and 1,500 international newspapers now have a Web presence.

<http://www.nieonline.com/nieonline/lessons.cfm?category=middle> Newspapers in Education's website providing content and web services for Newspaper in Education programs

<http://www.angelfire.com/ny3/NIE/> The Times Herald – Newspapers in Education

<http://kidbibs.com/learningtips/lt40.htm> Newspaper Activities Support Children's Learning in many ways. This site details those ways and provides activities as well.