

Back to School

Don't miss the bus.

Get a jump start on the school year with the newspaper



POST-NEWS 
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

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Newspaper Lesson Library

Find newspaper activities to reinforce the skill of your choice with this searchable database. You choose the grade level, content area and skill you want to work on and the database will provide one or more activities. New activities are added every few weeks.

Newspaper Scavenger Hunt

Two weekly scavenger hunts based on the Sunday Denver Post (available Monday morning) and the Wednesday Rocky Mountain News. The type of scavenger hunt will vary from week to week.

Current Events Quiz

10 multiple-choice questions. Available Monday morning based on news stories from Sunday Denver Post and on Wednesday morning based on that issue of the Rocky Mountain News. The answer key also gives the page location of the corresponding news article.

NIE Online

Information about a current news topic, with Web links and a newspaper activity. Available Monday morning. All past topics are kept in an archive, which includes many science-related articles.

Lesson Plans

These lessons, based on the Sunday Denver Post, go along with a number of our programs, including Stock Market Game, Current Events, Colorado Agriculture, Current Events and Tackle Math. You can choose activities that will work for you and your students.

Parade Magazine and USA Weekend

Activities based on each week's issue of these news magazines. Many activities utilize the newspaper as well. Available the Friday before.

Parent Information

Parents can support what you are doing in the classroom with fun literacy activities using the newspaper. In addition, the site includes college scholarship information and resources to help parents deal with tough topics. Parents are also welcome to use the Newspaper Lesson Library.

ColoKids.com

Written by and for Colorado kids, this companion to Colorado Kids (*Tuesday Denver Post*) is full of news stories, reviews of movies, books, games, videos/dvd, kid-friendly contests and things to do in Colorado. Plus, an archive a past print copies of Colorado Kids.

The Mini Page Standards Spotlight

Five additional activities to go along with the theme of that week's Mini Page (*Wednesday Rocky Mountain News*). The standards are identified for each week.

Use one or more of the following activities to help your students get off to a good start for the school year, get to know each other better and create a positive classroom environment.

My Name: Page 4

1. Duplicate the Name Card sheet.
2. Ask each student to review the comic pages from today's newspaper and select the one that is his/her favorite cartoon.
3. Glue the panel on the card.
4. Cut out the letters to spell your first name and glue them on the card as well.
5. Ask each class member to stand and introduce him/herself.
6. Ask each to explain what comic strip he/she chose and tell why that cartoon is his/her favorite.
7. Ask each student to fold the card and place it on his/her desk.

News Reporter: Page 5

1. Duplicate the News Reporter sheet.
2. Assign each student a partner.
2. Say "Since we are using newspapers today, I want each of you to become a news 'reporter'. Please interview your partner and find out the information on the sheet."
3. With younger students, use the questions on the top of the page. A variation that works well with older students is to also introduce the news story format of 5 W's and an H by asking the questions on the bottom of the page.
4. Each partner interviews the other, getting the answers to each question.
5. Call on each student and ask him/her to introduce his/her partner
6. This could culminate in a writing assignment, asking each student to write a news story about his/her partner.

My T-shirt: Page 6

1. Duplicate the T-shirt page. Have each student print his/her name on the top of the T-shirt.
2. Have each student select words, pictures, phrases, etc. from a current newspaper, which describe why he/she is a fantastic human being. Cut these out and paste on the T-shirt page.
3. Have each student hold his/her T-shirt in front of him/herself while they share them with other members of the class
4. When this activity is completed, tape the T-shirts on the classroom wall to remind everyone about the fantastic people in the classroom.

My Friends Like Me Because...: Page 7

1. Duplicate the smiley face page.
2. Ask each student to find words in the newspaper that describe why his/her friends like him/her.
3. Paste the words on the smiley face.

4. Share within small groups.
5. A good culminating activity is a writing assignment “I like me because...”

Advertising Myself: Page 8

1. Duplicate the Advertisement page.
2. Ask students to examine advertisements in the newspaper.
2. Have a group discussion about what advertisements are like and how they frequently point out the good aspects of a product.
3. Ask each student to create an advertisement about himself/herself using pictures, words, and phrases from the newspaper.
4. Ask each student to share his/her advisement with the class.

My World Shield: Page 9

1. Duplicate the Shield page.
2. Ask students to cut words and photographs from the newspaper which describe them and paste them on the shield.
3. Ask each student to share his/her shield in a small group.

Ten Years From Now: Page 10

1. Duplicate the “Ten Years From Now” page.
2. Ask students to study the classified advertising section.
2. After examining the ads, ask student to complete the form
3. Discuss the information in small groups and then as a class.

Scavenger Hunts: Pages 11-15

Scavenger hunts are a fun way to get students into the newspaper. There are five different scavenger hunts, each with a slightly different focus. Following are several different ways to use them. Whichever you choose, always make sure that students write down the page number where they found each answer.

1. For primary, give the students one section of the newspaper. Ask them to find three to five items from the list given.
2. Tell students to choose 5, 10 or 15 items from the list and find them in the newspaper during class or assign the whole list as a homework assignment. There is no race.
3. Divide students into teams. Ask questions one at a time. The team to find the answer first gets a point. The team with the most points at the end wins a prize (a trip to the library, stickers, extra points).
4. Divide students into teams. Hand out the entire sheet. The first group to finish wins.
5. Create your own scavenger hunt based on specific information found in that day’s newspaper. Focus on language arts, social studies or math.

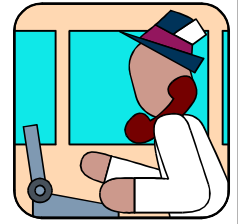
Additional Activities: Pages 16-20

Name:

Comic

Strip:

News Reporter



Ask your partner the answers to either set of questions:

What is your name? _____

What is your favorite TV show? _____

What picture, story or ad do you like the most in today's newspaper? _____

What picture, story or ad do you like the most in today's newspaper? _____

Tell me about something you that makes you proud. _____

OR

1. **Who** are you (name)? _____

2. **What** was the most fun thing you did this summer?

3. **Where** did it happen? _____

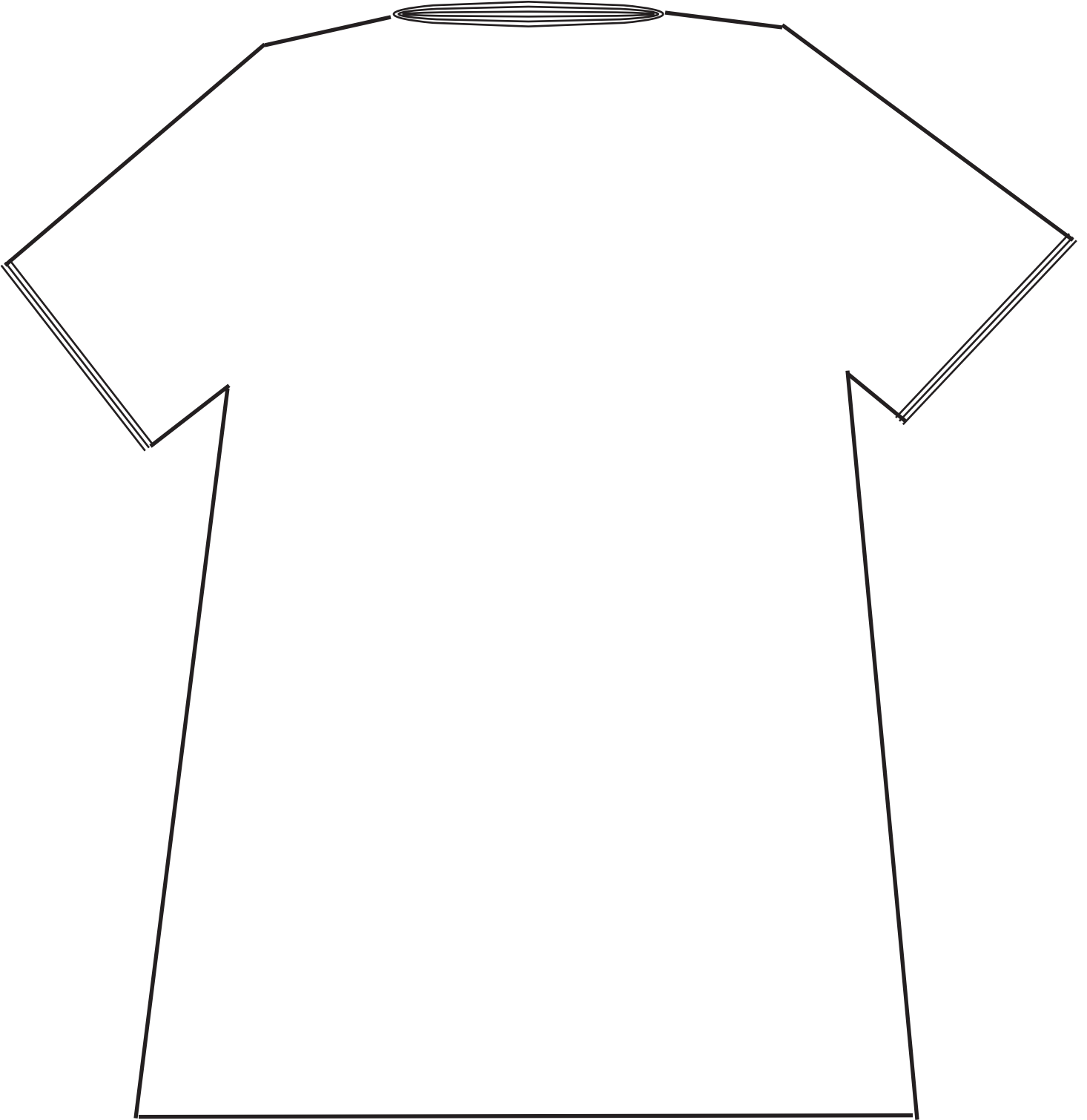
4. **When** did it occur? _____

5. **Why** was it so much fun? _____

6. **How** did you get to do it (were you invited by friends, did your parents take you, etc)?

Name _____

My T-Shirt



Name _____

My Friends Like Me Because...



Advertisement

Name _____

My World Shield

What I look like

What I like to do

My family

What I hope to be

Ten Years From Now

Look in the classified ads in today's newspaper. Using the jobs listed, complete this form.

Jobs I can see my self in ten years from now. Explain why.



Jobs I definitely will not be in ten years from now. Explain why.

Jobs I can't see myself in ten years from now. Explain why.

Primary Scavenger Hunt



- Something to eat
- Something to drink
- Something to play with
- Something to ride in or on
- Something to wear
- Something living
- Something hot
- Something cold
- Something that's big
- Something that's small
- Something that uses electricity
- A number
- A male
- A female
- A store
- Something that makes you smile
- Something that makes you frown
- Big black print
- Teeny tiny print

NEWSPAPER SCAVENGER HUNT



Find each of the following items in the newspaper. Write your answer and the page number where you found it after each item.

- A story about something happening in western Colorado
- A picture of an athlete
- Someone's opinion
- The price of a share of stock
- A drawing of a fictional character
- The time a game show airs on TV
- An ad for something that begins with the letter "B"
- The name of someone who has died
- A number over 100
- The price of a used car
- Someone's advice
- The weather in Denver

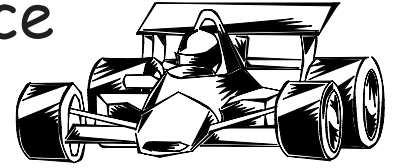


Newspaper Scavenger Hunt

Look through the newspaper to find examples of the following. Write your answer and the page number where you found it after each item.

- A picture that catches your eye
- An advertisement for something you'd like to buy
- A crisis situation
- A colorful adjective
- Weather report
- A word new to your vocabulary
- The first letter of your last name in capital
- A number over 100
- The number of your age plus 13
- A newspaper error
- A picture of an animal
- Your favorite cartoon
- The name of a car you'd like to buy
- A word that describes you
- Someone's opinion
- A fact
- A picture that describes you
- A food you'd like to eat
- A TV show you'd like to watch tonight
- An unusual verb on the sports page
- An abbreviation
- A word with strong emotional appeal
- Exaggerated punctuation
- A one-word summary of a front page story

Newspaper Scavenger Hunt Race



This activity is a race. It will get you around and about in the newspaper, but the prime objective is togetherness in group organization and the procedures used to get the job done. TEAMWORK is the key. Hurry, hurry!

Find, cut and paste one sample for each item listed:

- A number greater than a million
- The price of an item you would like to buy
- The high temperature in a major city
- A face with glasses
- An international dateline
- An animal either pictured or mentioned
- Illustrate a sports headline. (Stick figures are allowed. Do it quickly. This is not an art class!)

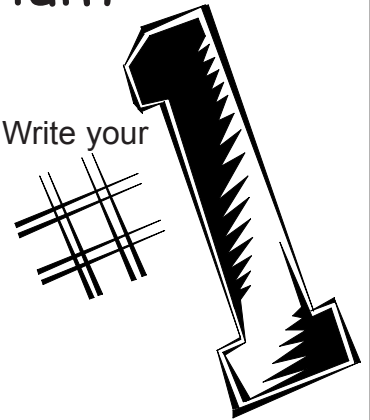
Examples: "Soccer Sweeps The Nation" and "Bears Whip Tigers"

- The price of a used car
- The crossword puzzle
- A letter from someone
- A local city
- A number smaller than one
- Something to play with
- A movie that starts between 7:00 and 9:00
- A compound word
- An angry word
- The TV channels that broadcast a 6 o'clock news program

As soon as you're finished, stand up and holler, "We're done!"

Newspaper Fun Math Scavenger Hunt

Look through the newspaper to find an example of each of the following. Write your answer and the page number where you found it after each item.



- A numeral over 1,000
- A numeral less than 10
- A numeral between 10 and 100
- A telephone number
- An address
- A mixed number
- A fraction
- A decimal number (not money)
- A money number
- A percentage
- An age
- A time of day
- A date
- A zip code
- A Roman numeral
- A number written in words
- A radio call number
- A TV channel number
- A temperature
- An I.D. number of any kind
- A square
- A rectangle
- A circle
- A triangle
- A set of parallel lines
- Any type of graph

Study Skills

Use this newspaper activity to introduce study skills to your class.

1. Partner students and give each pair five minutes to talk to each other. Students should observe one another's attire, mood, mannerisms and what was really conveyed as they spoke ... through a) body language b) tone c) what they wore to school that day. Then, place students back to back and ask them to fill out a questionnaire.

Ask the following five basic things:

1. What was the most important thing you can remember about the conversation you just had with your partner.
2. What made you remember this "thing"? Was it interesting to you? Was it the tone your partner used when talking to you about this "thing"? Was it the body language your partner used when speaking to you?
3. Describe in as much detail as possible what your partner is wearing.
4. What is the most important unspoken comment your partner made to you today?
5. How can observation help you become a better student?



NOW... go to the newspaper.

Give your students 10 minutes to scan the paper. Encourage them to look at ALL sections of the paper. Then ask them to answer the following:

1. Tell one thing you remember from the Main section of the paper.
2. Tell one thing you remember from the Life section of the paper.
3. Tell one thing you remember from the Sports section of the paper.
4. Describe the most memorable picture from today's paper.
5. What was the most memorable story you scanned in today's paper?

Discuss as a class what was helpful in answering the questions. Did headlines stand out more than other information? Did pictures help us remember stories? Were we able to determine which stories we would like to read in more detail by scanning headlines, captions and pull-quotes? Could scanning headlines, captions, bylines, etc. help us quickly determine which stories would be helpful in our day's activities or studies?

Now discuss what you should pay the most attention to in reading: bolded, italicized words, quotes, captions, etc.

5 W's and H Mix

Student Objective: To create a new story from existing news stories by locating, selecting and making use of relevant information.

Directions: A news story will identify the who, what, when, where, why and how of a news event. In general, the most important information is presented first in a news story.

- Identify the 5 W's and H from three news stories. Use the chart below.
- Using any mix of the 5W's and H from the three news stories, create a fictional news story. Write your story on the reverse side of this activity sheet.

Who			
What			
When			
Where			
Why			
How			

Analyzing An Article

Look through the newspaper for an article that pertains to a topic that you you will study this year. Analyze the article following the steps below.

1. Source _____

Date _____

Author (if given) _____

2. Classify the article according to the topic. _____

3. Read the article carefully and circle the important facts and factual statements.

4. Write a brief statement or summary of the article. _____

5. Identify a problem or issue that you have studied and show how the article relates to it.

Attach the article to this page.



Newspaper Activities by Grade Level

Remember, this is just a sample. You can find many more activities by visiting the Lesson Plan Library at www.PostNewsEducation.com

Third Grade Activities

1. Find five pictures of things that cause pollution. Cut them out and paste them on your papers. Write two or more sentences on how you can stop pollution. Can you label each kind of pollution you have found?
2. Choose a newspaper article in the paper and paste onto your paper. Now, circle all the different punctuation marks used in the story. Make a list of each of the punctuation marks used.
3. Who is the President of the United States? Try to find a picture of the President in the newspaper. Cut out any picture of the President you find as well as the name of our President. Paste these pictures on your paper.
4. Find as many weather words as you can and clip them from the newspaper. Illustrate or draw a picture for each word you have cut out.
5. Using the newspaper cut out ten words that have double vowels. Paste these onto your paper. Do the same for ten words that have blends.

Fourth Grade Activities

1. A noun is a name, person, place or thing. Find the nouns on the front page of the newspaper. Write a sentence using each noun.
2. Look through your newspaper and find ten different ways numbers have been used. Cut these out and paste onto your paper. Label each of the ways numbers have been used.
3. Find an article about fire. Does the article describe fire as a useful agent? List three ways fire can be useful and three ways it can be destructive. Cut the article out and paste it onto your paper.
4. Choose two pictures in the newspaper showing emotion. Cut these out and paste onto your paper. Now, describe the pictures using sound, smell, taste and feeling words.

Fifth Grade Activities

1. Find the lost and found column in the newspaper. Choose one item that has been lost or found and write a short story about the item: how it was lost, who found it, where did they find it, etc.
2. Look through the newspaper and find the following: 5 stories from cities outside of Denver but still in Colorado, 5 stories from states other than Colorado, and 5 stories from countries other than the United States. Write the names of these cities, states and countries down on your paper. Specify the page number you found them on in your newspaper.
3. Find and clip ten plural words in the newspaper. Write the root word next to each of the plural words you have pasted onto your paper.
4. Using the newspaper cut out advertisements or pictures that show the use of mathematics (for example, a pair of shoes, size requires math). Cut out ten different advertisements or pictures and paste onto your paper.

5. Use a grocery ad from the newspaper. Choose five items that you like to eat. Cut them out of the paper along with the price and then add up the total cost for all the items.

Sixth Grade Activities

1. Make a list of at least 15 descriptive words you find in the advertisements. After compiling your list, write one or two paragraphs describing something. Use as many of the words as you can.
2. Using the newspaper locate ten different abbreviations. What is an abbreviation? Clip these out of the paper and write out the word they represent.
3. Look at the weather map in the newspaper. Predict the weather for tomorrow in five different cities around the United States.
4. Choose five different headlines in the newspaper. Rewrite each headline as a complete sentence. Be sure to put in correct punctuation.
5. Locate examples of three maps in the newspaper today. What information do these maps give you and why are these maps in the newspaper? Write your answers next to the maps you have clipped and pasted to another sheet of paper.

Seventh Grade Activities

1. What is an antonym? Look through the newspaper and find five different sets of antonyms. Clip these words from the newspaper and paste onto your paper.
2. Look through the newspaper and find all the maps. How many were you able to find? Choose an article you have found in the newspaper and draw a map to illustrate that article.
3. Take a newspaper and find three stories or pictures about accidents. Clip these stories / pictures out of the paper. Paste on a piece of paper. How could each of these accidents have been prevented?
4. Locate a newspaper article written in present tense and clip it out of the paper. Underline all the verbs and then rewrite the article in past tense.
5. Read a page of the newspaper and underline all the phrases which refer to time. Make a list of all the words and phrases you have found.

Eighth Grade Activities

1. Scan through your newspaper and list ten occupations that are discussed. Don't use your classified advertisements for this activity!
2. Find a political cartoon in the newspaper that you consider timely and interesting. Write a new caption for the cartoon. Cut the cartoon out of the paper and paste it onto your paper along with the new caption you have written.
3. Select three apartments listed in the classified ads for rent. Do the following for each of the apartments you have chosen: compute the total rent for a year; determine the average monthly rent based on the apartments you have chosen. Which of the three apartments you have chosen appears to be the best choice for the money and why?
4. Plan a meal for a family of four. Use the grocery ads to compute the cost of your meal.
5. Imagine that you are in charge of preparing a time capsule that will be opened in 200 years. Cut items from the newspaper that you think would tell the most about our lives today. Paste these items on your paper.