

WHAT IS THE NEWS? (LEVEL 3)

Description	Learners will put together a community newspaper to provide access to useful information to the community. They will explore the different sections in a newspaper and identify the sections they can keep in their community newspaper to make it engaging, fun, and useful. As they work on the community newspaper, they will learn to use complete sentences to express their ideas, opinions, and facts.
Leading question	What does it take to make a newspaper for our community?
Subjects covered	English, Maths, Social and Emotional Learning
Total time required	40-50 minutes a day for 4 days
Resources required	Paper, pen/ pencil, colour pens/ pencils, glue/ stapler
Learning outcomes:	<p>By the end of this project, learners will be able to:</p> <p>Knowledge-Based Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write complete sentences to express ideas, opinions, and facts. 2. Proofread their work with a focus on the use of correct spellings, punctuation, verb-object agreement, and capitalisation. 3. Frame basic WH questions to seek information. <p>21st Century Skill Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use creativity in designing the layout of the newspaper and finalising the themes/ topics for the different sections. 2. Work collaboratively to create the different sections and then compile them together. 3. Communicate effectively to receive feedback and share ideas. 4. Think critically to identify and write about important issues in an unbiased way in the editorial and news feature sections.
Previous Learning	NA
Supervision required	Medium

Day 1 –

Today, you will design the layout of your community newspaper.

Time	Activity and Description
5 minutes	<p>Project Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you ever been curious about what's happening in your community, like new construction like gardens/ parks, fun events, or upcoming celebrations? - Raise your hands if you have ever felt you missed community information regarding a new shop that opened or a new playground coming up.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You are not alone in feeling this way! In this project, we will try to address the issue of lack of information about events happening in our community. - We will create a community newspaper to stay connected and informed about current events, activities, and stories. - The leading question for this project is: "How can we make a community newspaper?" - Our goal is to improve information access in our community and language skills. Over the next three days, you will work in groups to create a community newspaper of around 4-5 pages. On the last day, you will present your newspapers to friends and family.
15 minutes	<p>Explore the Different Sections of a Newspaper</p> <p>Let's look at the different sections of a newspaper. (<i>front-page news, editorials, classifieds, comics, weather, sports, and puzzles</i>) To explore the sections, let us use these prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What's on the front page, and is it important for the whole country or the world? (<i>National or international news</i>) - How are front-page headlines different from those inside? (<i>Bigger font, eye-catching</i>) - How's the weather forecast shown, and can you understand it? (<i>Weather forecast section predicts weather</i>) - Is there a section for people's opinions? What's it called? (<i>Editorial</i>) - How many ads did you find, and is there a specific ad page? Why so many ads? (<i>Ads are in the classifieds section. Ads are sources of money for the newspapers.</i>) - Did you see games, puzzles, comics, or horoscopes? (<i>Crosswords, Sudokus</i>) - Is there an interview section, and how are interviews presented? (<i>Usually in a question-answer format</i>) <p>Newspapers provide information on various topics, including national and international news, sports, weather forecasts, interviews, editorials, classifieds, and more.</p>
15 minutes	<p>Planning the Layout of the Community Newspaper</p> <p>Let's plan the newspaper layout and decide on sections, space allocation, and placement. Each newspaper must have at least 3-4 sections with each section being allocated a maximum of 1 page. You can use your knowledge of the different sections you gained through exploring the newspaper to design the layout. You should keep the following points in mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The total number of pages in the newspaper should not exceed 4-5 pages. - The newspaper aims to share information and raise awareness about community events, like past happenings, upcoming calendars, opinions, interviews, weather reports, and more. - The newspaper can include entertaining sections like puzzles, comics, jokes, and other fun stuff to engage the readers. - Consider adding a neighbourhood news section. - Arrange sections by importance, with the most important news at the beginning, followed by more general sections. - Think of an interesting name for your newspaper.

Note: Encourage creative organisation of sections and efficient use of page space by using different shapes like triangles, squares, rectangles, circles, etc. for each section.

Day 2 –

Today, you will brainstorm ideas on different sections in the newspaper and work on these sections.

Time	Activity and Description
20 minutes	<p>Brainstorming Ideas for the Different Sections</p> <p>You must have at least 3-4 sections in your newspaper. Some prompt questions to guide the brainstorming for the different sections are given below:</p> <p><u>News Feature/ Local Story:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are some important events or incidents that have occurred in the community in the last month? For example, a health camp in the community. - What details do you want to include about these events? You can use the '5 W's and the H' (what, when, who, why, where, and how) to plan what you want to say, such as describing the event and capturing the community's feelings about it. - How will you collect information about these events? Who will you interview? - What are the upcoming events that you want the community to be aware of? What information about these events would you need? How will you collect this information? <p><u>Puzzles/Comic Strip:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the different kinds of puzzles you know of? For example, crosswords, sudokus, riddles, etc. - Which of these puzzles would you want to include? - Can you include puzzles that can help readers improve their language and Math skills, like crossword puzzles or number patterns, etc? - What's the theme and message of the comic strip story? (<i>Funny, adventure, community-related, etc.</i>) - Who are the characters in the story? (<i>Names, personalities, distinctive features for drawing</i>) - How will you structure the comic strip? What are the beginning, middle, and end like? - What thoughts and dialogues will the characters have, and how will you show them? (<i>Through thought and speech bubbles</i>) <p><u>Weather Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many days of weather will you predict in your newspaper? (e.g., a week or 2 days) - How will you make these predictions? (e.g., based on current weather or newspaper sources) - What details do you want in the weather report? (e.g., temperature range, weather type, clothing recommendations)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What visuals or pictures do you plan to use in your weather report? (e.g., sun for sunny weather, an umbrella for rain, etc.) <p>Interview/ Editorial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who would you like to interview? Why? - What's the theme of your interview? (e.g., work, favourite things) - What issue do you want to address in your opinion piece? (e.g., waste management, importance of health and hygiene) - How will you structure the editorial? (Beginning: introduce the topic. Middle: state your opinion and provide a reason. End: conclude the piece.) <p>The interview and the opinion piece must be at least 10-12 sentences long.</p> <p>Note: If learners wish to add more sections relevant to their community, use guiding questions to plan. These questions should help them decide what to include, how to gather information, and how to present it.</p>
20 minutes	<p>Work on the Newspaper</p> <p>Once you have decided what to include, how to gather information, and how to present each section, you can start creating your newspaper. Try and finish at least 2 sections in class today and then you will work on the remaining sections in the next class.</p> <p>Note: Encourage the use of English, making it engaging, fun, and useful. They can enhance their section's appearance by drawing or pasting pictures. Emphasise short, complete sentences with proper punctuation and capitalisation. If necessary, review basic punctuation rules (periods, commas, question marks, exclamation marks).</p>
At-home activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete any pending work on the 2 sections you worked on. Include drawings or pictures to enhance your work. - Share the 2 sections with a friend or family and receive feedback on it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Was the section interesting and informative? Why or why not? - How can it be improved? - Are there complete sentences with proper punctuation and capitalisation? <p>Make any improvements based on these suggestions if required.</p>

Day 3 –

Today, you will work on the newspaper, proofread your work and compile the newspaper.

Time	Activity and Description
20 minutes	<p>Work on the Newspaper</p> <p>Work on the remaining sections of the newspaper.</p>
15 minutes	<p>Proofread Your Work</p> <p>Now, you will proofread the newspaper with these steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look for misspelt words; use a dictionary if available. - Ensure correct punctuation, like full stops, commas, question marks, and exclamation marks. <p style="text-align: right;">Tenses</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tenses help us talk about when things happen. The three main types of tenses:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirm the capitalisation of proper nouns and sentence beginnings. - Check for consistent tense usage in your piece, maintaining either past, present, or future tense throughout. If needed, review the concept of tenses. - Ensure correct verb agreement, matching singular subjects with singular verbs and plural subjects with plural verbs. (e.g., The cat runs fast.) - Review formatting to ensure headlines, captions, and text are readable and correctly formatted. - Perform a final read-through to catch any overlooked errors.
5 minutes	<p>Compile the Community Newspaper</p> <p>Assemble your newspapers according to your initial layout. You will organise sections by importance, with vital sections first. Properly order and bind the sections together using staples or glue.</p>
At-home activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete any pending work on the newspaper. (Adding pictures/ drawings) - Invite your family and friends for the final showcase.

Day 4 –

Today, you will present your newspapers before an audience and seek their feedback. You will also reflect on your learnings through this project.

Time	Activity and Description
15 minutes	<p>Prepare for the Presentation</p> <p>Write a 3-4 minute presentation about your newspaper. The script should cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The sections you included in the newspaper and why you chose them. - Information that is conveyed in those sections. - How did you gather the information?
15 minutes	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Each learner presents their newspaper. As you present, the audience will consider these questions for feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do the sections cover all essential information? - Is the newspaper engaging, clear, and visually appealing? - Do any of the sections appear biased? - What improvements can be made to the newspaper? <p>Note: Appreciate learners of their work and invite a few audience members to share their feedback.</p>
10 minutes	<p>Reflection</p> <p>Reflect on your experience of doing this project using the following question prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What did you enjoy the most? What did you find the most challenging? - How did you ensure that the sections were interesting and informative for the readers? - Which feedback do you think helped you the most to improve your work? - What would you do differently if you could do this project again?

Additional enrichment activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The learners can organise events or initiatives related to the newspaper content, such as debates, panel discussions, or community service projects where they can take leadership roles. - They can be introduced to more complex formats of presenting information, like podcasts and websites. They can create their podcasts or design their websites on issues facing the community or topics of interest.
Modifications for simplification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If learners are unable to write complete sentences in English, encourage them to use English words and phrases along with pictures or drawings that act as visual anchors.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

A majority of my learners were able to:

- Write complete sentences to express facts, ideas, and opinions.
- Frame 2-3 basic WH questions to seek information.
- Convey information interestingly and engagingly.
- Proofreads their work with a focus on the use of correct punctuation, correct spellings, verb-object agreement, and capitalisation.