



he newspaper offers a gold mine of activities for students. It's easy and cheap and can perk up an otherwise ordinary lesson. With a little planning, you can integrate social studies with reading, math, and language. Even creative writing can evolve from using the newspaper.

It won't even cost anything if you ask stu-

dents or fellow teachers to bring in the newspaper after their family has read it. For some activities, you'll only need a page or two for each student.

Here are a few ideas to jog your creativity.

2. Have students scan through one whole newspaper and look at the pictures. Ask them to count the number of pictures of men, women, children, and animals. How many depict something pleasant? How many show something sad or violent?

3. Ask students to measure the total inches/millimeters of news space devoted to sports and compare this to the space given to other subjects.

4. Have students examine a page of newspaper comic strips, then categorize them as "funny," "sarcastic," or "realistic." What types of values are represented? Poll the students and then make a graph showing their favorite comic strip characters.

5. Using teams, have students skim the headlines and categorize the news. One group is to keep track of the "good" news, the other the "bad" news. Have them defend their choices, and compare the totals.

6. Clip out various newspaper articles, cutting off the headlines. Have students read each article and make up their own headlines for the stories.

# WHAT'S NEW?

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## Twenty Tips for Using the Newspaper in Your Classroom

Adapt as needed for your own classroom:

1. Look for weather-related stories. Using a large map, have students locate the cities or countries mentioned. Cut out the forecast for several days and ask students to plot the temperatures on a graph. They can then make a chart comparing the temperatures of various cities in the world.

7. Ask students to study the front page of the newspaper every day for a week. What types of news are reported on the front page? Have them categorize the news as world, national, state/province, or local.

Ask why they think the editors put those stories on the front page.

8. Ask students to name the major classifications of the newspaper. (Remind them to include such departments as obituaries, lifestyle, legal advertising, movie listings, etc.)

9. Over several days, have students count to see if there are more complaints or compliments in the letters to the editor. Discuss possible subjects and guidelines, then have students actually write to the editor.

10. Ask students what types of

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columns appear in the newspapers. Have them read several and then write to "Dear Abby" or another columnist.

11. Using the grocery ads, allot each student \$50 in play money to "buy" food for themselves for one week. Have them list their purchases and the prices, then add them up.

12. Using clothing ads, allot students a certain amount of play money to "buy" a present for a parent or grandparent.

13. Have students read ads for furniture and the classified section and write an ad to sell a piece of furniture from their home.

14. Ask students to skim the want ads and write an application for a job they'd like to have.

15. Have students read the lost-and-found column and write a fictitious classified ad for a lost pet.

16. Ask students to write a happy ending to a human-interest story in the newspaper.

17. Skim through the newspaper and make a list of vocabulary words. Have students find them in the paper (you may want to provide some hints). They should then use the dictionary to define each word.

18. Ask students to make something clever and imaginative out of a large sheet of newspaper. (They can fold or cut, as needed.)

19. Discuss what school news the students would like to see published in the newspaper. Have them write a news or

feature article and submit it to the newspaper.

20. After you've drawn as many lessons as possible from the newspapers, save them to make *papier-mâché*. You can thus turn them into *objet d'art*!

No doubt you and your students can brainstorm many other activities to make learning fun. With such a readily accessible resource as the newspaper, your classroom can be in the news in more ways than one! ✍

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