

# CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES

PRIMARY EDUCATION

**LSU**

## ANATOMY OF A NEWSPAPER

### Objectives:

To identify, compare, and contrast the components of historical newspapers to today's newspapers.

### Materials Needed:

- Online access to *Chronicling America*
- Several copies of at least 2 different current newspapers

### Louisiana State Curriculum Standards:

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade English Language Arts

GLE 3.7 Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words using a variety of strategies

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade History

GLE 49: Identify various ways different cultures record their histories

GLE 51: Describe changes in community life, comparing a given time in history to the present

**Duration:** 45-60 minutes per activity

### Activity 1

1. Divide students into groups of 2 or 3 with one of the current newspapers. If the newspaper contains more than one section, only give the student the front-page section for simplicity's sake. Students should make notes on the "Newspaper Structure Handout."
  - a. Alternatively, the activity can be amended for only the front page of the newspapers
2. After the students have completed the handout, briefly introduce them to the *Chronicling America* website and pull up one issue or 2 or 3 pre-selected titles.
3. As a class, have the students answer the same questions on the handout about the historical papers.
4. As a class, discuss the similarities and differences between today's newspapers and historical newspapers.

### Activity 2

1. Divide students into groups of 2 or 3 with a copy of the "Vocabulary Terms" and one of the current newspapers. If the newspaper contains more than one section, only give the students the front-page of the section for simplicity's sake.
  - a. Alternatively, the activity can be amended for only the front page of the newspapers
2. Students identify as many of the vocabulary terms as possible in both the current newspapers and again in an issue of historical newspaper.
3. As a class, discuss the similarities and differences between the two types of newspapers, and observe the structural evolution of newspapers as media.

### Sample Discussion Questions:

1. What are the major differences between historical and current newspapers?
2. What parts of the historical newspapers do not exist in today's newspapers?
3. What parts of today's newspapers did not exist then?
4. What makes a newspaper a primary source? What makes it a secondary resource?
5. How did the newspapers present visual records?
6. How are the articles presented? How do you know you have reached the end of an article?

# ANATOMY OF A NEWSPAPER: NEWSPAPER STRUCTURE HANDOUT

To answer the questions, use an issue of a recent newspaper and/or an issue of a historical newspaper on *Chronicling America's* website.

1. How many pages are there?
2. How many sections are they? What are they named?
3. What information is on the front page?
  - a. Is there an article headline that stands out?
4. Where can you find local, national, and world news?
5. Where can you find ads?
6. Is there a section for children?
7. Is there a section about sports?
8. What kind of images can you find?

Examples: drawings, photographs, maps, charts
9. How much does the newspaper cost?
10. Who is the editor or owner of the paper?



## ANATOMY OF A NEWSPAPER: VOCABULARY TERMS\*

**Ad** – advertisement  
**Banner** – headline spanning across the page  
**Binder Headline** – one headline that presents several related stories  
**Break** – where the story stops to be continued on another column or page  
**Byline** – contains the author’s name and precedes the story  
**Canned Copy** – a news story that has already been edited and is ready for print  
**Caption** – the title or description of an image  
**Circulation** – the number of copies that the newspaper distributes for each issue  
**Circus Makeup** – headlines that are presented using a mixture of fonts sizes and types  
**Column** – a vertical space for a stacked text, also known as a “leg”  
**Column Rule** – the vertical line that separates a story, image, or other element  
**Cutoff Rule** – the horizontal line that separates a story, image, or other element  
**Cutout** – a silhouette of an image that has had its background removed to highlight the main subject  
**Dateline** – usually located in the first line of a story and contains the story’s place or origin  
**Deck** – a small headline following the main headline  
**Display Ads** – large advertisements paid for by businesses that typically have illustrations  
**Ears** – the space located on both sides of a newspaper’s nameplate or flag  
**Editor** – a person who writes the editorials and prepares the newspapers stories for publication  
**Editorial** – the editor or publisher’s opinion written as an article  
**Exclusive** – a story that only one paper published  
**Extra** – an irregular and separate edition that contains late and breaking news  
**Feature** – a story concerned with a topic other than the news  
**Filler** – space filling trivial information  
**Fold** – the crease where the newspaper is folded in half  
**Folio** – section located on the inside pages providing the newspaper’s name, date, issue, and/or page number  
**Header** – a special name for a recurring section, page, or story  
**Headline** – large type that appears above a story to introduce or summarize it  
**Infographic** – any image, map, graph, chart, design, etc. that illustrates or analyzes an event, place, or news story  
**Jump** – the continuation of a story on another page  
**Jump Headline** – a headline reserved to introduce the continuation of a story  
**Lead** – the first or second paragraph/sentence of a story that summarizes its content  
**Masthead** – type that provides the newspaper’s title, owner, and other responsibility information  
**Nameplate** – also known as a flag, this is the newspaper’s official title as it appears on the front page  
**Newshole** – the space on a newspaper reserved for news rather than paid advertising  
**Obituary** – brief biography and announcement of a person’s death  
**Printer’s Ornament** – special characters in a typeset that act as spacers or decoration  
**Publicity** – a new story that announces upcoming events  
**Publisher** – the proprietor and sometimes the owner of a newspaper  
**Reporter** – person who gathers news content and writes stories for a newspaper  
**Running Story** – a news story that continues over several issues  
**Slant** – when only one aspect of a news story is presented  
**Spot News** – last minute unexpected news stories  
**Spread** – the most important news within the issue  
**Subhead** – small headlines used to divide a long news story  
**Syndicated Feature** – material such as comic strips, columns, and stories purchased from a news organization  
**Wild Art** – Stand-alone photos or images that do not have accompanying text

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\* Terms pulled from the following sources: Jane Lamb. *The Complete Newspaper Book*. (Portland, Me.: J. Weston Walch, 1985), 23-25 and Tim Harrower, *The Newspaper Designer’s Handbook*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill, 2002, [http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072407611/student\\_view0/glossary.html](http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072407611/student_view0/glossary.html) (accessed 15 February 2011).

# RESOURCES

**LSU**

## RESOURCES

LSU Libraries Special Collections. *Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers Project*. Retrieved from <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/cc/dlnp>.

Library of Congress. *Chronicling America*. Retrieved from <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>.

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