



LANGUAGE ARTS

STUDENT BOOK

- ▶ **6th Grade | Unit 8**

LANGUAGE ARTS 608

Analyzing the News

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Analyzing The News

Introduction

In this LIFEPA[®] you will learn about newspapers both in print and online. You will study the history of newspapers, the importance of newspapers, and the power of propaganda. You will identify main ideas and judge propaganda used in communications media. You will also learn some newspaper terms, learn to analyze a news story, and write a news story of your own.

You will study about auxiliary verbs, contractions of verbs, tenses of verbs, and verb phrases. You will also study adverbs and the comparative forms of adjectives.

As you study this LIFEPA[®], you will continue to build your spelling and handwriting skills.

Objectives

Read the following objectives. The objectives tell you what you should be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPA[®]. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished the following LIFEPA[®], you should be able to:

1. Explain how to select the main idea of an article, a story, or a report.
2. Identify and explain the difference between fact and opinion.
3. Recognize and use verbs.
4. Explain the function of a verb.
5. Form some verb tenses.
6. Describe the power and the pattern of propaganda.
7. Explain the meaning of the word *internalize*.
8. Identify and use auxiliary verbs.
9. Identify and use verb phrases.
10. Form verb contractions.
11. List the parts of a news story.
12. Explain how analyze a news story.
13. Identify and use adverbs.
14. Identify and use adverb phrases.
15. Define and spell new words.
16. Practice handwriting skills.

1. SECTION ONE

Reading a brief history of newspapers may sharpen your awareness of the importance of news media. In this LIFEPAK you will study the history of newspapers. You will select the main idea of an article and explain the difference between fact and **opinion**. **Propaganda** is another topic you will study. You will use your local newspaper to help you in this LIFEPAK. You will analyze a news story and write one of your own.

Grammar is also included in this LIFEPAK. You will review the uses of verbs. You will learn more about tense, auxiliary verbs, and verb phrases. You will also study about adverbs and adverb phrases.

You will improve your spelling and handwriting skills. You will learn to spell newspaper terms, language arts terms, and comparisons of adjectives. In handwriting you will practice writing words with difficult joinings of *w* and *v*.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Explain how to select the main idea of an article, a story, or a report.
2. Identify and explain the difference between fact and opinion.
3. Recognize and use verbs.
4. Explain the function of a verb.
5. Form some verb tenses.
15. Define and spell new words.
16. Practice handwriting skills.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section:

adage (ad' ij). A well-known proverb.

ancestor (an' ses tur). Person from whom one is descended.

gregarious (gru gār' ē us). Fond of being with others.

media (mē' dē u). Plural of medium.

medium (mē' dē um). Substance or agent through which anything acts; a means of communicating thoughts, ideas or opinions.

propaganda (prop u gan' du). A method used deliberately to influence people to believe certain ideas or to follow certain courses of action.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: *hat, āge, cāre, fär; let, ēqual, term; it, īce; hot, öpen, örder; oil; out; cup, püt, rüle; child; long; thin; /TH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.*

THE NEWSPAPER

The article you will read is a brief history of newspapers. Every article has a *main idea*. The main idea tells *the most important thing the writer wants you to know from the article*. As you read this short history, decide on the main idea.

NEWSPAPERS: NOTEWORTHY NECESSITIES

An old **adage** says, "Necessity is the mother of invention." Because people are **gregarious**, they want to know what others are doing and thinking. They need a means for telling the news. Tribes in Africa relayed news across large areas of the country by beating drums. Ancient Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, and Mayas carved important events on monuments. Alexander the Great and Caesar used runners to send news of their triumphs to the citizens of Greece and Rome.

A comparatively modern **medium** of communication is the newspaper. A newspaper is a publication devoted to telling recent happenings and information of general interest.

Perhaps the first recognizable **ancestor** of the newspaper was a handwritten epistle, the newsletter. Appearing in Rome as early as 449 B.C., it recorded the work of the government. Deposited in the Temple of Ceres, copies were made available particularly to officials and wealthy Romans. Added later were sporting events, political news, and social events. These newsletters were inscribed by educated slaves. Had it not been for the abundance of slave labor, the printing press might have been invented earlier. Later, in 60 B.C., Julius Caesar ordered the daily news to be recorded and posted in the Forum.

The earliest record of a *printed* newspaper is the *Ti Chan* (*The Peking Gazette*) in China. It may have been established as early as A.D. 500 and was printed until 1935. This newspaper was produced from carved wood blocks rather than type. Gutenberg's invention of printing

from movable type in A.D. 1440 encouraged the development of newspapers in Europe in the fifteenth century. These papers hardly resembled present-day publications because they usually consisted of only one to four pages often printed on only one side.

The beginning of newspaper printing in England—and in the English language—occurred on December 20, 1620, with George Veseler's untitled news sheet. What a **scoop** he would have enjoyed had he known that fellow Englishmen—Pilgrims—had that same day landed in the New World to establish a colony that later became part of the United States of America!

In the American colonies the first newspaper was a four-page sheet printed in Boston on September 25, 1690, by Richard Pierce. In this one and only **edition** a leading story told that "the christianized Indians in some parts of Plymouth have newly appointed a day of Thanksgiving to God for his Mercy in supplying their extreme and pinching Necessities under their late want of Corn, & for His giving them a very Comfortable Harvest." The publisher, however, had not obtained a license to publish. Accordingly, the governor **suppressed** his paper. Fourteen years would pass before any other colonist would attempt publication of a newspaper.

In eighteenth-century America several people published newspapers. One of these papers was *The Pennsylvania Gazette* by Benjamin Franklin. By the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War in 1775, thirty-five papers were being published in the colonies.

When the founders of the new nation, the United States of America, wrote the Constitution, they eventually included the first ten amendments (also called the Bill of Rights). This addition is a clear definition of the rights and privileges of American citizens. The First

Amendment reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Since December 15, 1791, freedom of the press has become an American tradition, not enjoyed by many peoples over the world who are still under news **censorship**.



Write true or false.

- 1.1 _____ Gregarious people are not very friendly.
- 1.2 _____ Ancient Europeans relayed news by beating drums.
- 1.3 _____ The newspaper is a comparatively modern medium of communication.
- 1.4 _____ The Roman newsletter, that recorded the work of the Senate as early as 449 B.C., was an ancestor of the newspaper.
- 1.5 _____ The *Ti Chan* was the first recorded newspaper printed from type.

WORD BANK

scoop
censorship

the first ten amendments
Pennsylvania Gazette

gazette
edition

Using the Word Bank fill in the blanks.

- 1.6 All the copies of a newspaper printed alike and issued at nearly the same time are from the same _____ .
- 1.7 One newspaper gets a _____ when it publishes a news story before another paper does.
- 1.8 A country or group of people who do not have the freedom to read honest news reports are under _____ .

Finding the main idea. To find the main idea of an article or story you should look for the topic sentence in each paragraph. Notice any important ideas in that paragraph as you

quickly look over it and move on to the next paragraph. Put together the ideas from all the paragraphs, and you will have the main idea of the whole article or story.



Complete the following activity.

- 1.9** Skim the article, “Newspapers: Noteworthy Necessities,” to determine the main idea. Put an X in front of the sentence that best states the main idea.

- a. _____ Newspapers add quality to life.
- b. _____ Newspapers emerged to meet a need in people’s lives.
- c. _____ Publishing a newspaper is hard work.
- d. _____ Freedom of the press is guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

Determining fact or opinion. News stories are generally based on fact—the actual events, situations, persons, or details involved. Whenever

a person makes comments about facts, he/she is expressing his/her opinion—his feelings or attitudes about something.



Define the following words.

- 1.10** Write the definitions of *fact* and *opinion*.

a. fact _____

b. opinion _____

Complete the following activities.

1.11 In the blank before each statement place an *F* if the sentence is *fact*; put an *O* if it is *opinion*.

- a. _____ Tribes in Africa relay news over large areas by beating drums.
- b. _____ Because people are gregarious, they want to know what others are doing and thinking.
- c. _____ The newsletters were inscribed by educated slaves.
- d. _____ Freedom of the press has become an American tradition.
- e. _____ Had it not been for the abundance of slave labor, the printing press might have been invented earlier.

1.12 Look at a copy of your local newspaper either in print or online and answer these questions.

- a. What is the name of the paper?

- b. Who is the editor?

- c. Who is the publisher?

- d. How often is it published?

- e. Which section of the paper do you enjoy most? _____

1.13 Write a paper.

- a. Use an encyclopedia or online resource to look up information about newspapers or journalism today.
- b. On a separate sheet of paper write several paragraphs about your findings.

TEACHER CHECK

initials

date



Complete the following activities.

1.14 Circle the action words in these sentences and write these verbs on the lines.

- a. _____ Teletype machines bring the news from around the world to newspapers.
- b. _____ News services supply the news.
- c. _____ Editors determine the banner headline for the front page.
- d. _____ They check the stories for that page.
- e. _____ They decide the position of each story.

1.15 Circle the being verbs in these sentences and write these verbs on the lines.

- a. _____ News is the paper's life blood.
- b. _____ Reporters and photographers are on the staff.
- c. _____ Newsprint is the most costly material in the paper.
- d. _____ China was the inventor of paper.
- e. _____ Publishers were men of conviction.

VERBS

Verbs have three important jobs: they may express action, they may show state of being, or they may link a noun to another word in the sentence.

Action verbs express some movement or action of the subject. Many words are action verbs: *run, walk, play, think, and write*. Any word telling what you do is an action verb.

I often *bowl* and *swim*.

He *collects* model airplanes.

Being verbs are used to show what a person or thing *is*. Only eight words are in this group: *am, are, be, being, been, is, was, were*.

I *am* a student.

They *are* absent today.

She *was* ill.

Linking verbs are verbs that join or link the subject and another word in the sentence. Some words in this group are *become, seem remain, look, feel, taste, smell, appear, sound*.



Complete this activity

1.16 Circle the linking verbs in these sentences and write these verbs on the lines.

- a. _____ Newspapers became a tradition early in our nation.
- b. _____ Special features often appear interesting.
- c. _____ The comic pages seem popular for many readers.
- d. _____ Sports remain a big section.
- e. _____ Good editors feel a distinct responsibility for truthful reporting.

Verbs are very important parts of sentences. A sentence must have both a subject and a verb (or predicate).

To find the *subject* of a sentence, ask:

"Who or what is doing or being something in this sentence?"

To find the *predicate* of a sentence, ask:

"Which word (or words) is telling what the subject is doing or being?"

The *function* (or job) of a verb or verb phrase is to be the *predicate* of a sentence.

Read the following example sentences.

1. Jerry/ is my brother. (*Jerry* is the subject and *is my brother* is the complete predicate.)
2. Lori/ sings beautifully. (*Lori* is the subject and *sings beautifully* is the complete predicate.)
3. Ken and Jon/ play baseball every Saturday. (*Ken and Jon* is the complete subject and *play baseball every Saturday* is the complete predicate.)



Complete the following activity.

1.17 Put a / between the complete subject and the complete predicate in these sentences. Circle the verbs. Above each verb write *V* for action verb, *BE* for being verbs, and *LV* for linking verb.

- a. Caesar Augustus issued a decree.
- b. It was a census.
- c. Mary and Joseph registered in Bethlehem.
- d. Their home was in Nazareth.
- e. Mary bore Jesus.
- f. She laid him in a manger.
- g. Angels appeared to shepherds in the field.
- h. They sang a song of joy.
- i. The shepherds worshiped Jesus.
- j. This story is the Good News.

Verbs show the time something happens. The time shown by verbs is called tense. Two often used tenses are present tense and past tense. Present tense verbs describe things in the present.

Present tense: I see you.
 Can you go?
 I swim every day.

When you form the present tense, you will notice that you must use the personal pronouns with the verb. These personal pronouns are the ones you will be using.

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
First person (speaker)	I	we
Second person (person spoken to)	you	you
Third person (person, thing spoken about)	he, she, it	they

SELF TEST 1

Complete these statements (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.01 A person who likes to be with others is said to be _____.
- 1.02 A comparatively modern _____ of communication is the newspaper.
- 1.03 A handwritten epistle, the a. _____, was the first recognizable b. _____ of the newspaper.
- 1.04 Early newsletters were inscribed by educated _____.
- 1.05 Earliest printed newspapers appeared in _____.
- 1.06 Printing with movable type, invented by _____, brought newspapers to Europe.
- 1.07 An early newspaperman in the United States was _____.
- 1.08 The first ten amendments of the Constitution, known as the a. _____, guarantee b. _____.

Complete this activity (this answer, 4 points).

- 1.09 Write the main idea of this paragraph.

Since December 15, 1791, freedom of the press has become an American tradition, envied by many people over the world who are still under repressive censorship.

Write F in the blank if the statement is fact; O if it is opinion (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.010 _____ Newspapers improve life.
- 1.011 _____ Educated slaves inscribed early newsletters.
- 1.012 _____ China printed newspapers with carved blocks rather than type.
- 1.013 _____ Freedom of the press is guaranteed by the Bill of Rights in the United States.

Put a slash mark / between the subject and predicate, and label the verb this way: V over action words, be above being verbs, and LV over linking verbs (each part, 2 points).

1.014 Herod arrested Peter.

1.015 He placed him in prison.

1.016 People in the church prayed.

1.017 An angel awakened Peter.

1.018 Peter seemed in a dream.

1.019 They walked from the prison.

1.020 Peter was grateful for the angel.

1.021 He knocked on John Mark's door.

1.022 Rhoda recognized his voice.

1.023 The praying people challenged her.

1.024 They finally opened the door for him.

1.025 He reported God's miracle.

Write the past tense of the verb in parentheses (each answer, 2 points).

1.026 (preach) Elijah _____ to his people.

1.027 (blame) The Pharaoh _____ Moses.

1.028 (receive) Moses _____ the law.

1.029 (like) Joshua and Caleb _____ the Promised Land.

1.030 (remain) Daniel _____ true to God.

 80 100		SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	initials _____	date _____
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ABC

Take your spelling test of Spelling Words-1.



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