



Geography with the Daily Newspaper

Students' lack of geography knowledge is one of the greatest concerns among educators. Many of today's students, in fact, are geographic illiterates at a time when global events impact their lives. The following newspaper/geography strategies suggest ways to make geography relevant and exciting to students as they connect it to current events. In addition, students will improve their critical thinking skills and gain proficiency as newspaper readers.

- 1) **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Check the food advertisements in today's newspaper. Mark those foods which had to be shipped to your area and which are important to a well-rounded diet. Would they have been available in your area 100 years ago? 50 years ago? How would the introduction of such foods have affected the population?
- 2) **IDENTIFY THE LANDFORM:** Find the national and international datelines in today's newspaper. After locating the datelines on a map, decide on which of the main landforms (plains, plateaus, mountains, hills) each city is built.
- 3) **REGIONS IN THE NEWS:** With a group of three or four classmates, use the newspaper to find a news article about each of the 10 major regions of the world: (1) Anglo-America; (2) Latin America; (3) Europe; (4) North Africa-Southwest Asia; (5) Sub-Sahara Africa; (6) South Asia; (7) East Asia; (8) Southeast Asia; (9) Australia and New Zealand; (10) the Pacific Islands. (This activity may take several days of newspaper use or work at home with a daily newspaper.) Note which areas are easily found in the newspaper and which are more difficult to find. Discuss the reasons with your group.
- 4) **CLIMATE CONTROL:** Find news stories in today's paper that are related to the climate in the various regions of the Earth (for example, crop failure due to drought, skiers trapped because of blizzards, etc.)
- 5) **WHAT TO WEAR?:** Look through the retail clothing ads in today's news. Find examples of clothes that are advertised at this time of year because of the climate in your area.
- 6) **POPULATION AREAS:** Name the three largest population areas in your state. Scan the news stories in the paper to find articles about those areas that offer clues as to why so many people have settled there.
- 7) **WEATHER OR NOT:** Locate the detailed weather report in today's newspaper. Circle the city with the highest temperature in the nation. Find these cities on a map or globe. Give their locations by telling their approximate latitude and longitude. Tell the relative locations of the two cities.
- 8) **NATIONS IN THE NEWS:** Scan the international news stories in the newspaper. Consult a map to determine what nations in the news have geographical features (rivers, oceans, mountains, etc.) that form their political boundaries. Are these geographical features related to why that particular nation is in the news?
- 9) **DESTINATION DATELINE:** Choose national or international datelines to which you'd like to win a trip. On a map trace the route to each destination. In which region of the country does each trip end? How many time zones would you go through during the trip? Compare each destination city to the one in which you live in climate, elevation, longitude and latitude.
- 10) **FOCUS ON A COUNTRY:** In today's newspaper find the names of at least 10 countries excluding the United States. Tell why each one was in the news. On a globe or map, locate each country and give the following information: (1) continent on which each country is located; (2) whether the country is located north or south of the equator; (3) name of one bordering country; (4) name of two major cities; (5) whether it is larger or smaller in area than the U.S.