Lesson plan: Sections of the newspaper

Subject areas: English, S.E.S.E. (History).

Learning objectives:

* To become aware of the different components of a newspaper (headlines, news articles, classifieds, cartoons, advertisements, photographs, horoscopes, weather forecast, opinion piece, letters to the editor, travel, sport) and the features of each component.
* To explore the use of headlines in newspapers and examine a variety of headlines.
* To make predictions, based on the newspaper headline, as to what the article might be about.
* To explore the role of newspapers in transmitting messages, the techniques used and the types of information included.

Resources: PowerPoint presentation, sample newspapers (Irish Newspaper Archives), computers (optional) or printed copies of newspapers, English copy books.

Introduction: (15 minutes)

* Read through the W.A.L.T. and the W.I.L.F. as a whole-class.
* Discuss expectations and learning objectives.
* Each child is given a physical copy of a newspaper or computer access to a newspaper on the Irish Newspaper Archives website.
* Independently, the children scan through their newspaper and record as many different sections of the newspaper as they can (**Activity 1**).

Development: (40 minutes)

* Paired activity: the children compare their list with the person sitting next to them and discuss findings.
* Whole-class discussion of different components to a newspaper (see prompt questions on PowerPoint).
* Independently, the children find an example of each section of the newspaper and record it (**Activity 2**).
* Discuss findings as a whole-class.
* Teacher scribes a newspaper headline on the board from chosen newspaper.
* With the person sitting next to them, the children predict what they think the article will be about, based on the headline (**Activity 3**).
* Whole-class discussion on headlines.
* Each child is given a newspaper headline and must predict what they think the article will be about, based on the headline (**Activity 4**).
* Each child is then given the article to match their headline. They will read the article and compare their prediction with the real story.
* Whole-class discussion of predictions and comparisons.

Conclusion: (5 minutes)

* The children will write down 3 new things that they learned, based on today’s lesson.