

The  
Economist

EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION



# FRONT-PAGE NEWS

Child-led learning resource



# ABOUT

This activity helps you to think about and research the ways newspapers report on events.

You will be able to explore really interesting questions like:

- What makes something hit the headlines?
- How should newspapers report on a crisis?
- Do newspapers have a duty to always tell the truth?

Part of this activity comes from a longer set of resources about extreme-weather events.

Find them here: [bit.ly/EEFweather](https://bit.ly/EEFweather)

You can give this a go on your own, but if there's someone at home who can join you, why not work together? You could also connect with someone by telephone or video.

We'll practise some critical-thinking skills which are important for understanding and discussing the news.



**Ready? Let's go!**



# RESEARCH TIME

What makes something hit the front page of a newspaper?

Can you find three top headlines from a newspaper website and explain why each one is so important?

Have a look at the articles that are “most shared”.

- Are these the same as the articles that appear first?
- If not, why do you think there is a difference?

Find one news story that has been reported on in two different newspapers.

- Are the headlines similar or different?
- Why do you think this is?
- Which would you like to read and why?

# RESEARCH TIME

Imagine you are a newspaper editor. Read the headlines below.

Decide which headlines:

- You think are important, but a newspaper might not
- You wouldn't print (if any)

Hundreds die in landslide in remote Indian village



**Terrorist attack in Iraq**

The Kardashians cancel TV show

Brexit date pushed back again



EPIDEMIOLOGIST WINS NOBEL PRIZE

**BREAKING NEWS**

Everyone safe after landslide in remote Indian village

New drug reduces risk of cancer

TRUMP TWEET CAUSES **OUTRAGE**

**TERRORIST ATTACK IN SCOTLAND**

VILLAGE CRICKET TEAM WIN TOURNAMENT

# RESEARCH TIME

Now, decide where to place them in your newspaper.

Put them in order from “front-page news” to “end-of-paper stories”.

What do your top choices have in common? What about the bottom choices?

Hundreds die in landslide in remote Indian village	<b>BREAKING NEWS</b> Everyone safe after landslide in remote Indian village
 <b>Terrorist attack in Iraq</b>	New drug reduces risk of cancer
The Kardashians cancel TV show	TRUMP TWEET CAUSES <b>OUTRAGE</b>
Brexit date pushed back again	<b>TERRORIST ATTACK IN SCOTLAND</b>
 <b>EPIDEMIOLOGIST WINS NOBEL PRIZE</b>	VILLAGE CRICKET TEAM WIN TOURNAMENT

## CHALLENGE

### Open-mindedness



Put yourself in someone else’s shoes. Choose one of the following perspectives and repeat the activity.

- An American gossip magazine
- A local Indian newspaper
- A national British newspaper
- An online social network

What were the differences? What were the reasons for the differences? What does this tell us about the way newspapers decide what to publish?

# RESEARCH TIME

Look at these fictional newspapers, each of which is reporting on the weather.

- Can you describe the photos?
- How do you feel about the photos?
- How is each newspaper portraying the weather?
- Who might not like the way the newspaper is representing these weather events? For example: would a climate-change activist approve of this?
- How should newspapers report on extreme-weather events? Why?





# CORONAVIRUS CONNECTION

Find two very different online newspapers. Search their websites to find the headlines that announce the following events (some of these might not be applicable to your country):

- 1. The first coronavirus case detected**
  - 2. The first coronavirus death**
  - 3. The tightening of restrictions**  
(for example: lockdown measures enforced)
  - 4. The relaxation of restrictions**  
(for example: shops reopening)
- How does each newspaper report portray the event?
  - Who might not like the way the newspaper is representing these events?
  - How should newspapers report on events during a fast-moving crisis? Why?



# REFLECTION



## Reasoning

What is the purpose of a headline?



## Open-mindedness

Is it ever alright for headlines to mislead the reader?



## Scepticism

How can the reader know whether to trust a headline?

The news can feel overwhelming at times. You can find support at [youngminds.org.uk](https://www.youngminds.org.uk)



# SUPER-REFLECTION

- What's the right way to report on a crisis?
- Do newspapers have a duty to always tell the truth?
- "The reader has a responsibility too."  
What do you think this means? Do you agree?

## NOW...



### Explore the topic further

Some of this activity is part of six sessions about extreme weather. Find them at: [bit.ly/EEFweather](https://bit.ly/EEFweather)



### Have a discussion

Talk to someone else about the issues covered in these activities



### Become the teacher!

See if you can go through these activities again, as the teacher, with somebody else in your household