

A black and white line drawing of a diverse group of children of various ages and ethnicities. They are all holding and reading newspapers. The newspapers have various headlines, some of which are visible. In the top left corner, there is a red rectangular logo with the text 'The Economist' and a dark grey rectangular logo with the text 'EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION'.

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

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



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	BREAKING NEWS Everyone safe after landslide in remote Indian village
 Terrorist attack in Iraq	New drug reduces risk of cancer
The Kardashians cancel TV show	TRUMP TWEET CAUSES OUTRAGE
Brexit date pushed back again	TERRORIST ATTACK IN SCOTLAND
 EPIDEMIOLOGIST WINS NOBEL PRIZE	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



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