

TODAY'S FRONT PAGES

The activities in this lesson plan are created for use in conjunction with the Newseum's daily "Today's Front Pages" exhibit, "The Front Page" poster and the "Stories of the Century" exhibit.

Grade levels: 6-12

Exhibit summary: "Today's Front Pages," updated daily at newseum.org, features the front pages of more than 500 newspapers from all 50 states and countries around the world. Newspapers are listed alphabetically, first by state for the United States, and then by country for the international papers. The Newseum web site also features archived front pages that chronicle events of historical and journalistic significance.

Objectives

Students should gain an understanding of the following:

- How newspapers serve as primary source documents for historically significant events
- How the newsworthiness of a story is determined by impact, time, location and reader interest
- How newspapers determine story placement based on perceived newsworthiness, editorial considerations and readership
- How readership, location and competition from other news stories influence how a story is presented in the newspaper
- How a newspaper's layout and style are deliberate
- How a newspaper's mission is to be fair, accurate and clear

Students will:

- Prepare for the exhibit by gaining prerequisite knowledge and skills
- View the exhibit
- Reflect on the exhibit by responding to analytic questions and tasks
- Extend the exhibit through activities that expand on and enrich the exhibit's content
- Apply what they've learned to their own experiences as they shape their world view