

News Detectives Teacher's Notes

What is News Detectives?

News Detectives is a daily news worksheet available for members of The Day at theday.co.uk/resources/news-detectives/. News Detectives can be used to fuel discussions, support literacy and build cultural capital in the classroom. Our team of teachers and journalists work together to find and report news that are appropriate for young learners. We publish stories that are:

- Relevant to children's lives and experiences
- Reflective of diverse voices and perspectives
- Interesting and understandable to children
- Never frightening or emotionally overwhelming
- Based on real-world learning to engage children in the curriculum

Across the school week, we explore topics linking to different areas of the curriculum, allowing pupils to relate their classroom learning to the real world.

Career Mondays

News

News stories that expose pupils to **a broad range of careers** and inspire them with diverse working role models.

Links

Links to PSHE (Living in the Wider World) and Gatsby Benchmark 4 - (Linking Curriculum Learning to Careers).

Build the Change Tuesdays

News

News stories spotlighting innovators who are finding **solutions to people and planet problems**.

Brought to you by



Links

Links to Geography, Science, PSHE (Living in the Wider World), Citizenship, Design & Technology.

Wellness Wednesdays

News

News stories **promoting health, fitness and wellbeing**, to motivate children into action and help them be their personal best.

Links

Links to PSHE (Health and Wellbeing) and PE.

STEM Thursdays

News

News stories **showing science and tech in action**, and the STEM heroes who are making a difference to the world around us.

Links

Links to Science, Computing, Maths and Gatsby Benchmark 4 - (Linking Curriculum Learning to Careers).

Culture Fridays

News

News stories that celebrate **all styles of art and culture**, introducing pupils to creative role models and their stories.

Links

Links to Art and Design, Design and Technology, PSHE (Living in the Wider World) and Benchmark 4 - (Linking Curriculum Learning to Careers).

Each News Detectives edition is written using simple language, child-friendly fonts and consists of two pages that are accessible for all abilities, language and learning needs:

- **Page 1** includes a news story that is written especially for children and young people aged 7-14.
- **Page 2** includes an engaging 5-step investigation that allows learners to participate in group discussions and develop their voice on a range of issues.

What are the benefits to learners?

News Detectives uses the news to develop a range of skills including:

- **Literacy skills** including vocabulary, reading, writing, speaking, listening and oracy
- **News literacy**, cultural capital and a better understanding of the world around them
- **Personal development skills** such as critical thinking, empathy and self-expression

How can you deliver News Detectives in your classroom?

Any way you like! We've designed this resource to be flexible and useful for teachers.

While the news stories and topics change each day, the format of the resource stays the same, to help teachers and learners build familiarity. This means you can use it at short notice to fill any gaps or link it to curriculum learning as you teach, to bring the real world into your classroom.

You can pick and choose the activities that are most useful to your learners or according to the time you have available. Here are some ideas to get you started.

Key Stage 2

If you have 25 - 30 minutes:

Time	Activity
5 mins	Explore the KEYWORDS and the WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW sections, together.
5 mins	Read TODAY'S NEWS STORY . You might choose to do this together or independently, depending on your class.
5 mins	Use the CHECK YOUR FACTS questions to check their understanding.
5 mins	Complete the KNOW YOUR KEYWORDS activity.
5 mins	DISCUSS THE QUESTION in pairs or as a class. What do they think?
HOME LEARNING (OPTIONAL): REPORT BACK and share the story and their views with their family and friends.	

Key Stage 2

If you have 50 minutes or more:

Time	Activity
2 mins	Write the headline on the board, before you look at the story. What do pupils think the story will be about?
5 mins	Explore the KEYWORDS and the WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW sections, together.
5 mins	Read TODAY'S NEWS STORY . You might choose to do this together or independently, depending on your class.
3 mins	Use the CHECK YOUR FACTS questions to check their understanding.
10 mins	Complete the KNOW YOUR KEYWORDS activity. Can they use them in a sentence or a new headline?
10 mins	LOOK AT ALL SIDES . Encourage pupils to identify how those involved might be feeling by drawing or making faces. You could explore different perspectives through a role play activity like hot seating.
15 mins	Introduce the INVESTIGATION QUESTION in the header. DISCUSS THE QUESTION , using the prompts. What do they think? Think, pair, share. If you have time, you could explore the question as a circle time activity or conduct a debate with pupils preparing opposing arguments.
HOME LEARNING (OPTIONAL): REPORT BACK Encourage them to prepare a report that could be shared with the rest of the school.	

Key Stage 3

If you have 20 minutes (e.g. during Tutor Time):

Time	Activity
5 mins	Give students time to read the KEYWORDS, WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW and TODAY'S NEWS STORY independently. They should write down one question they have about what they've read.
5 mins	Read TODAY'S NEWS STORY as a class. Ask students to take it in turns to read aloud.
2 mins	Use the CHECK YOUR FACTS questions to check their understanding. Ask students to share their questions and initial thoughts.
2 mins	Test them on the vocab using the KNOW YOUR KEYWORDS activity.
6 mins	DISCUSS THE QUESTION . What do they think?
HOME LEARNING (OPTIONAL): REPORT BACK and share the story and their views with their family and friends.	

Key Stage 3

If you have a 50 minutes or more (e.g. an English or PSHE lesson):

Time	Activity
2 mins	STARTER: Write the headline on the board, before you look at the story. What do students think the story will be about?
5 mins	Give students time to read the KEYWORDS, WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW and TODAY'S NEWS STORY independently. They could write down one question they have about what they've read.
5 mins	Read TODAY'S NEWS STORY as a class. Ask students to take it in turns to read aloud.
5 mins	Use the CHECK YOUR FACTS questions to check their understanding. Ask students to share their questions and initial thoughts. If you have access to the internet, you could research answers to their questions.
10 mins	Complete the KNOW YOUR KEYWORDS activity. Could they use them in a new headline? Whose is the most engaging?
15 mins	LOOK AT ALL SIDES. Encourage pupils to explore different perspectives through a role play activity like hot seating. Students could imagine they are reporters on the scene, interviewing the characters involved.
15 mins	DISCUSS THE QUESTION. Think, pair, share. What do they think? You could divide the class into for and against teams. Conduct a classroom debate with pupils arguing opposing views.
3 mins	PLENARY: You could form a human continuum where they line up according to how they feel about the INVESTIGATION QUESTION . Do they agree, disagree or can they see both sides?
HOME LEARNING (OPTIONAL): REPORT BACK Encourage them to prepare a report (this could be an article, podcast, vlog, presentation, poster, persuasive speech, assembly or play) inspired by the news story and/or investigation that could be shared with the rest of the school.	

Extra Curricular News Detectives Club (1 hour a week):

News Detectives would make an excellent weekly club for KS2 or KS3 learners.

You would need to offer the following support:

- Promote the club during assemblies and tutor time, by writing a letter to parents or making posters to put up around the school.
- During your first session, help pupils create their own News Room and Editorial Team. You could assign them a different topic/day, according to their interests (e.g. Culture Correspondent, STEM Correspondent, Work and Careers Correspondent etc).
- Help pupils organise themselves and complete the tasks below during the hour or find time to complete follow up tasks such as interviews.
- At the end of each session, share their reports with the school and parents by publishing them on the school intranet or arranging for them to be played during assemblies or tutor times.

Time	Activity
15 mins	Spend time reading and discussing the NEWS STORIES and INVESTIGATION QUESTIONS featured across the week.
10 mins	Rank stories according to which they think would be most interesting to their peers. Decide which ones they'd like to share and how they'd like to report back. Will they create written, audio or video reports? Who could they interview?
20 mins	Work in pairs or small teams to create reports that can be shared in an assembly or during form time or registration.
5 mins	Share the reports with each other to make final edits.

We'd love to hear what you think of News Detectives and how you're using it with your class. Please email us at newsdetectives@theday.co.uk