"Preparing for Election 2012" by Using News Sources

KYN--Know Your Newspaper

Before working with the newspaper or on-line news source, students need to understand some of the newspaper's basics. Spend a few minutes introducing students to these terms.

Newspaper Word	What Does the word mean?	How Does The Item Help the Reader
Headline		
Article		
Dateline		
Byline		
Editorial		
Editorial Cartoon		
Letter to the Editor		

Knowledge and Principles of Government

- ☞ Have students go through today's newspaper or on-line newspaper (or recent news source) and find/download/clip one example of each of the following. Place in their Election News Scrapbook or Notebook.

- ☞ For each news article selected, explain why the article selected fit that particular word.

Word	Why Did Was This Article Selected To Represent This Word?
• Limited government	
• Majority rule	
• Minority rights	
• Constitutional and/or civil rights	
• Checks and balances	

- ☞ Compare selections/answers with other students.

- ☞ Ask students to briefly describe how these items relate to government, citizenship and/or elections.

Rules & Laws

Overview: Our country is based on a set of rules that all citizens must follow. The government calls these rules laws. These rules or laws help guide us in how we act.

Procedure: Make a list of three rules you can think of for home & school. Place below.

#	**Rules for Home & School** **Examples:** Do not run in the hallway; Keep cell phones off unless it is an emergency. Homework completed before any TV.
1.	
2.	
3.	

Procedure: Now make a list of three laws made for your town, state, or country. Place below.

#	**Laws for Town, State, or Country**
1.	
2.	
3.	

Next, using your newspaper's Sports Section, find a sports picture. Look at the picture and make a list of three different rules that these athletes have to follow for this sport. First, write down a short description of the photo & identify the sport. Next to each rule, explain what would happen if those rules were broken or not followed.

Sport Shown in Photo		**Brief Description of Sports Photo**
Rule(s)		**If broken or not followed? What might/happen?**
1.		
2.		
3.		

Who makes rules for your school or school district?_____

Who makes laws for your city?_____

Who makes laws for your state?_____

Who makes laws for your country?_____

Using the chart below, work with a partner and create some additional rules for your class. Be sure to explain why your classmates need these rules and what would happen is someone breaks the rule.

Rules for Class	Why is Rule Needed?	What Happens If Someone Breaks This Rule?

☞ Using a separate sheet of paper, repeat the activity doing the same thing for laws.

Follow The Leader

Overview: When you think of the word “leader,” what comes to mind?

1. Using the chart below, what "ingredients" or qualities go into making a leader?

Leader Ingredients/Qualities			
a.		f.	
b.		g.	
c.		h.	
d.		i	
e.		j.	

2. Using today's newspaper or on-line news source find two (2) pictures or articles of people you think fit your "ingredients" for leaders. Paste these pictures on a sheet of construction paper and label appropriately.

3. For each picture or article, identify the person and write a sentence explaining why you think these people are leaders.

Name of Leader in Picture or Article	Sentence Explaining Why He/She is A Leader
1.	
2.	

4. Who is the leader of your school?

_____

5. Who is the leader of your town or city?

_____

6. Who is the leader of your state?

_____

7. Who is the leader of your country?

_____

Letter Writing Practice: Write a letter to one of the leaders listed on the previous page

Choose one of the leaders from the previous page and write him/her a letter about yourself, your family and your school. Include in your letter: who you are, a little about yourself, some of your wishes for your (school, town/city, state, or country) and a few questions you want to ask the leader.

Our Chief Executive

One of America's leaders is the Chief Executive of the United States. Another name for Chief Executive is _____. Who is the current Chief Executive of the United States? _____.

1. Go through today's newspaper and see if you can find any stories or pictures having to do with our Chief Executive. Clip these out and paste them into your Election 2012 notebook.

2. Why was the Chief Executive of the United States in the news today?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. How does the Chief Executive get to be the leader of the U.S?

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. Would you like to be the Chief Executive someday? Explain your answer.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Who's Running For Office?

Overview:

1. Every four years Americans select someone to be the leader of their country. This leader is known as the _____of the United States and his/her name is _____. He/she lives in _____.

2. Likewise, every four years Missourians select someone to be the leader of their state. The current leader of our state is called the _____ _____and his/her name is_____. He/she lives in _____.

3. In November 2012, an Election will be held to decide who will be America's Chief Executive and who will be Missouri's Governor. We will also elect other federal, state, and local offices. On Election Day, people 18 and older who are registered to vote, will vote on whom they want as their leaders.
   - Go through a recent newspaper or on-line newspaper and make a list of all the people who are running for office for Chief Executive and offices in Missouri. Look at the headlines and the pictures. How many names did you find? Make a list of these and place them in your Election 2012 Notebook. Try looking at the newspaper each week and add new names to your list.

#	Name of person	Name of Office they're running for
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

4. Would you like to run for office someday? Why or Why not? Include in your explanation, what office you'd like to pursue some day.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

The Issues

Your daily newspaper and on-line newspaper or new sources provides readers with a daily record of issues (problems) that need to be solved. These issues can be local, state, national, or even international type problems. Some are old (should we have clean air?) and some are new (should buying products on the Internet be taxed?).

Every citizen has a responsibility to become informed about these issues and what others are saying about them. One excellent way to do that is by reading your daily and/or local newspaper either in hard copy or on-line.

Working with a friend, go through your newspaper and find three (3) examples of issues that are facing our country today and place in the chart below. Are the problems you found local (L), state (S), national (N), or International (I) issues? Label each issue found with an L, S, N, or I. Using the library or Internet, research how some of the candidates feel about these issues and write their views in the chart.

Task	Issue #1	Issue #2	Issue #3
What is the Issue?			
Label as Local (L); State (S); National (N); or International (I)			
Is this an old or new issue?			
What are some possible solutions to this issue?			
How do the candidates feel about this issue?			
How do you feel about this issue?			

Bulletin Board/Collage Ideas

<table>
<tr><th>Idea</th><th>Brief Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>Freedom Board</td><td>Documents on the Freedom Bulletin Board might include:

✓ Declaration of Independence
✓ Constitution of the United States (Preamble)
✓ Bill of Rights

Using the newspaper or on-line new sources, find examples of each of these documents still at work today. Place under the right heading. Use string to connect to the right document.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Presidential Ballot Box</td><td>Create a Bulletin Board just about the Presidential Candidates

• Using the newspaper, clip pictures and articles of candidates as they appear. Use string or yarn to connect the candidate to the right category on your bulletin board.

• Which candidate seems to have the most pictures or articles? Why do you think that is?</td></tr>
<tr><td>State & Local Candidates In the News</td><td>Bulleting Board Headings might include:
Our State Candidates (Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer) and/or Our Local Candidates (Mayor, County Executive, County Clerk, Councilman, Alderman, City Treasurer)

Using the newspaper, clip pictures and articles of candidates as they appear. Use string or yarn to connect the candidate to the right category on your bulletin board.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Election Words</td><td>Every time you see a word associated with the 2012 Election, place it on your “Election Word” Bulletin Board. Some words might be common nouns and others proper nouns. Your Election words might include the following:

<table><tr><td>Candidate
Vote
Election
Primary</td><td>Polls
Obama
Register
Party</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>The Voting Booth</td><td>1. Make a classroom collage of all newspaper information that relates to voting. This collage could include candidates, issues, words, phrases, advertisement, letters to the editor, editorials, comic strips, etc.

2. Conduct research on voting laws in other states and countries. Post these on your Voting Booth Bulletin Board. Include how the right laws are similar and how they are different.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Political Parties</td><td>Make a bulletin board that tells others about all the political parties in America and how they got started. Include the Party’s Platform. Place the candidates under the right Political Party Column.</td></tr>
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