

1

**Cut-ups (key stage 2)** – One fun way to use newspapers is to compose poetry or song lyrics by taking phrases and words from the text and rearranging them. This is a technique made famous by William Burroughs and used by musicians like David Bowie, Kurt Cobain and Thom Yorke. Give each child a sheet of A4 paper and ask them to pick phrases or words from a newspaper to write on their sheet. Once children have collected a sheet of phrases/words, they should cut each one out and arrange them on their table to construct new sentences for their lyrics or poem. Children can then write up their completed pieces and perhaps even perform them.

2

**Mapping the news (key stage 1 and key stage 2)** – Newspapers are great for developing children's geographical knowledge of the world. For this you will need a range of articles with news stories from around the world and a large world map. The location of each story should not be obvious from the headline so these can be removed if need be. Give each child, or a group of children, an article and ask them to read the story. They must then identify where the news is from and place it on the world map. Younger children could also identify the continent that each story took place in. Older children could use atlases to locate cities or regions mentioned and note the hemisphere and time zone. The finished map can then be put on display and added to during the year. 'First News' might be more appropriate for younger readers.

3

**Definitions (upper key stage 2)** – Reading news articles provides a great opportunity for expanding children's vocabulary. Challenge children to read through some news stories in the paper and find ten words they don't know the meaning of. They should then list these words and use a dictionary to look up the definitions of each one. A further challenge could be to try and write a sentence using the new word. The collected words can be compiled into a mini-class dictionary with 'points' for anyone using one of the new words in their everyday work in class.

4

**Weekly debate (key stage 1 and key stage 2)** – Newspaper headlines are a great starting point for debate in class. Why not set up a weekly debating session? Pick a news story likely to divide the class and display it several days before the debating session. This will allow children time to decide which side of the argument they are on. With teacher as chairperson, they should state the issue to be debated and invite arguments for and against. For example: 'Gorillas should not be kept in zoos' or 'Children should be allowed mobile phones in school'. Children may need reminders to take turns to speak and to respect the views of others. A vote could be held at the end.

5

**Caption competition (key stage 1)** – Newspapers are often full of interesting, compelling and often surprising images. A fun activity to try with the class is a caption competition. Pick a striking image to use and display it to the class. Ask children to work in teams and come up with a relevant caption. This could be one that sums up the news story in either a serious or funny way. Children can then move on to looking through papers to find photos they like. They could then think up their own captions or challenge a partner to think up a caption. The resulting captions could be displayed in the class or compiled into a class book.