

Culminating Activity



The Sturgeon Times Newspaper

FOR THE TEACHER

This last activity gives students an opportunity to review everything they have learned from the Mysteries of the Great Lakes Junior Educational Program and to put their new knowledge to work in the form of a newspaper. You can find other great projects at www.rootsandshoots.org

Time required

3 days

Materials

- samples of newspapers
- sample of student created newspaper (if possible)

Preparation

Introduce students to:

- newspaper terms (e.g. by-line, headline, banner, off the record, deadline, dummy)
- types of newspaper stories (e.g. hard/soft news, editorials, letter to the editor, sports, politics, human interest, cartoons)
- 5 W's – remind students that every story should answer a series of questions, who, what, when, where and why
- “How” is often just as important as the 5 W's. Remember to include it

What to do

1. On the whiteboard put the different types of stories contained in a newspaper—hard/soft news, sports, politics, human interest, editorials, letters to the editor, cartoons.
2. Have class brainstorm for ideas for each category of news story that has something to do with the Lake Sturgeon, the Great Lakes (ecosystem, history), unique aspects, conservation and preservation efforts, and problems facing the sturgeon or Great Lakes. E.g. Sport fishing for sturgeon; government regulations for commercial sturgeon fishing; Ron Bruch's relationship with Sally, problems caused by invasive species.
3. Assign stories, give deadlines, and provide resources or direction.
4. Encourage students to begin by making a list of questions their stories should answer.
5. When students have completed their stories they should have two other students proofread for errors, omissions, or possible fact-checking.
6. Choose a layout design team to layout newspaper; have class decide on number of copies and places/people to distribute them to; decide if there will be a selling price, and if so, what the proceeds should be used for.
7. Share the newspaper with other classes, schools, community facilities, government representatives or any other person who would benefit from knowing more about the Great Lakes, its ecosystem and the Lake Sturgeon.