

## Teacher Resource

# History of Newspapers

## Focus Questions

1. What did the BTN story explain?
2. Which organisation recently announced that it was closing newspapers around Australia?
3. How have newspapers changed over the years?
4. How do newspapers make money?
5. Which two companies own most of Australia's newspapers?
6. Why did the internet have a big impact on newspapers?
7. How many newspapers will close at the end of this month?
8. How will the newspaper closures impact communities?
9. What do you think is the future of newspapers?
10. What did you learn watching the BTN story?

## Activity

### Class Discussion

Discuss the *BTN History of Newspapers* story as a class, using the following questions to guide the discussion. Record the main points on a mind map with 'Newspapers' at the centre.

- Where do you get your news from? (print, online, TV, radio, social media)
- What part have newspapers played in history?
- How do newspapers make money?
- What role do newspapers play in communities?
- How has the internet changed the way we get news?
- What do you think is the future of newspapers?

## Activity

### Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words and terms that relate to the *BTN History of Newspapers* story. Here are some words to get your students started.

Publish	Press	Broadsheet
Tabloid	Printing press	Journalist

## Key Learning

Students will explore the role newspapers have played over the years and make predictions about the future of newspapers.

## Curriculum

### English – Year 5

Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive print and multimodal texts, choosing text structures, language features, images and sound appropriate to purpose and audience.

### English – Year 6

Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts, choosing and experimenting with text structures, language features, images and digital resources appropriate to purpose and audience.

Plan, rehearse and deliver presentations, selecting and sequencing appropriate content and multimodal elements for defined audiences and purposes, making appropriate choices for modality and emphasis.

Compare texts including media texts that represent ideas and events in different ways, explaining the effects of the different approaches.

### English – Year 7

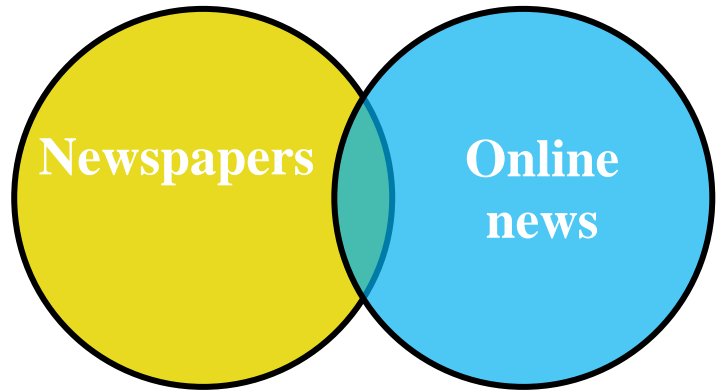
Analyse and explain the effect of technological innovations on texts, particularly media texts.

## Activity

### Compare and contrast

Students will find similarities and differences between newspapers and online news. Use the questions below to start a class discussion. Use a Venn diagram to help organise the information.

- What are the differences and similarities between newspapers and online news? For example, once a print newspaper is published the content is fixed. Online news can be updated and changed throughout the day.
- When would you read a newspaper?
- When would you read news online?
- What are the pros and cons of each?



## Activity

### Inquiry Questions

Students will explore newspapers in more detail. After watching and discussing the BTN *History of Newspapers* story, what questions do students have and what are the gaps in their knowledge? Students can complete the following KWLH organiser to explore their knowledge and consider what they would like to know and learn.

<i>What do I <u>k</u>now?</i>	<i>What do I <u>w</u>ant to know?</i>	<i>What have I <u>l</u>earnt?</i>	<i><u>H</u>ow will I find out?</i>

Here are some possible questions for students to research:

- How has technology changed the way that news and information from major newspaper publishers is produced, sold and accessed?
- Choose an event that is in the news. Find reports about it from a range of media sources: newspaper, radio, television and online. Compare and contrast how the event is presented in each source. How does it affect the way that readers/viewers/listeners get information about the news event?
- Research your local newspaper. When was it first published? Give examples of stories that are published. What groups in the community rely on the newspaper?
- Will newspapers survive? Can they compete for an audience with other media sources? Give reasons for your answer.
- Investigate the history of newspapers in Australia. What is the oldest newspaper? What is the longest running newspaper? Display the information on a timeline.

## Activity

### Printing Press

Students will research the history of the printing press using the following questions to help guide their research.

- What is the printing press?
- Who invented it?
- When was it invented?
- How did it change the way information was distributed?
- How has the printing press changed over time?



## Activity

### Mini Debate or Persuasive text

Students will develop a mini debate or a persuasive text for or against the following statement: *'Newspapers are still relevant today.'* Alternatively, students can develop their own statement. Students can use the information recorded on the mind map and their own research to help develop their argument.

#### Mini debate

- Working in pairs, students will prepare a 1-2-minute speech for a mini debate on the topic of the future of newspapers.
- One person will speak for the affirmative and the other will speak for the negative.
- Before students begin to construct their argument, ask them to record what they already know about the topic and what they would like to find out. Students then research the topic to gain a greater understanding of the issue.
- Ask students to list their arguments in point form on paper (without their partner seeing them). When they have done this, ask them to choose the five best points that will form the basis for their debate.
- Students will write in point form, their debate on cards that fit into the palm of their hand. Their debate needs to have an introduction (introducing the topic), middle (three main points) and a conclusion (restating their position). Students practise their speech and then present the mini debate to other students.

#### Structure

##### Introduction

- What is the point you are trying to argue? Construct an introductory paragraph which states the issue or topic.
- Introduce the arguments that will be developed in the body of the text.

##### Body

- Construct arguments that support your point of view.
- Each paragraph starts with a topic sentence which introduces each point.
- The rest of the paragraph gives more reasons.
- Arguments can be ordered from strongest to weakest.

##### Conclusion

- Restate your position on the argument.
- Construct a concluding paragraph that provides a summary of your arguments and a call to action.

#### Tips

- Who is your audience? For example, are you directing your argument at kids, teachers or politicians?
- Explore how language choices can have a big impact on persuading your audience.
- Which language devices give the report credibility and authority?
- Which are designed to create an emotional response in the listener?
- Provide facts and evidence to support your argument.
- Write in the present tense.
- Check your spelling and punctuation.

Use this [Read Write Think persuasion map](#) to plan your exposition text.

## Activity

### Create a Kahoot Quiz

Use [Kahoot!](#) to test students' knowledge about the history of newspapers. Quizzes can be created to recap learning or test personal knowledge. There is also the option to connect with classrooms around the world and play kahoot in real time.



## Useful Websites

Old News - BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/old-news/10532328>

Net News - BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/net-news/10538278>

News Corp to cut jobs in restructure towards digital-only community and regional newspapers – ABC News

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-28/news-corp-to-cut-jobs-in-restructure-towards-digital-newspapers/12294970>

History of Australian Newspapers – National Library of Australia

<https://www.nla.gov.au/australian-newspaper-plan/for-researchers/history-of-australian-newspapers>