



Teacher Resource

News Sources

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What was one of the first major ways people shared news with large numbers of people?
2. What did the latest study find about young people's news consumption?
3. According to the study, where do most young people get their news?
4. Why are some people concerned about AI and its impact on the news?
5. Where do you get your news from?

Activity: Where do you get your news?

Students will explore their own news habits and think about the different ways people access and engage with news. Start by asking students the following question “*What is news?*”

News Sources

Hold a discussion asking students what the different forms news can take, for example:

- Television and radio
- Newspapers and magazines
- News websites and apps
- Social media
- Podcasts and videos
- Conversations with family and friends

Students will make a list of their top 5 most trusted news sources for kids in primary school.

News Habits

Hold a class discussion asking students about their news habits, using the following questions to guide the discussion:

- What news topics do you enjoy or find most interesting?
- Where do you hear, see or listen to news you are interested in?

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KEY LEARNING

Students will explore different news sources and investigate people's news consumption habits.

CURRICULUM

English – Year 5

Use comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising, monitoring and questioning to build literal and inferred meaning to evaluate information and ideas.

English – Year 6

Examine texts including media texts that represent ideas and events and identify how they reflect the context in which they were created.

Use comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising, monitoring and questioning to build literal and inferred meaning, and to connect and compare content from a variety of sources.

Analyse how text structures and language features work together to meet the purpose of a text and engage and influence audiences.

English – Year 7

Explain the effect of current technology on reading, creating and responding to texts including media texts.

Media Arts – Years 5 & 6

Explore ways that media languages and media technologies are used in media arts works and practices across cultures, times, places and/or other contexts.

New Diet Challenge

Students can complete the ABC Education News Diet Challenge that was launched during Media Literacy Week. The challenge asks students to:

- Keep a news diary for one or two days.
- Rank the stories in the diary for 'most nutritional' to 'least nutritional'.
- Take one of the 'most nutritional' stories and look at how it's covered by news services.
- Students can create a short video about the experience.

MEDIA LITERACY WEEK

NEWS DIET CHALLENGE

What is the news diet challenge? Visit [ABC Education](#) for more information. Teachers can download the toolkit [here](#).

Activity: Survey

Students will learn how to design and conduct a simple survey to investigate where students in the school get their news. Before starting the activity decide as a class what you want to find out and who you want to survey. Use the following as a guide for students to develop, design, and conduct their survey.

Develop survey questions

Students will write a list of multiple-choice questions they will ask in their survey, e.g.:

- Where do you usually get your news?
- How often do you access or encounter news?
- What type of news are you most interested in?

Questions should be short, clear and easy to answer.

Conduct your survey

Students will collect responses from members in their school community. If you are working in small groups assign different roles and responsibilities to each student.

- How will you collect the data?
- What will your survey look like? (a paper survey, digital, face to face)
- Design a form or simple table to record the information.

Analyse the results

Once responses have been collected, students will begin organising their data. Students will:

- Sort and analyse the information and enter the results into an excel spreadsheet.
 - Which news source was most popular, and which was least popular?
 - Were there any surprising results?
 - What patterns can you see?
- Use mathematical equations like sum, percentage and averages in their spreadsheet.
- Summarise the information they have collected and create a graph (e.g., column graph, pie graph, line chart) using excel. What is the best way to represent the data you have collected?
- Create an infographic to highlight the survey results.

Activity: What makes something ‘news’?

Have you ever wondered what makes news, news? Students will investigate what makes an event newsworthy. Before starting this activity, brainstorm some ideas as a class.

Watch BTN’s [News Values](#) video, which explores what makes news, news. This video looks at the news values that determine which stories we see and hear about and which ones we don't and how those news values can shape the way we see the world.

Students will choose a range of current news stories (up to 5 news stories) and evaluate why the story is in the news and what makes it newsworthy? Students can use a T-chart to organise their information.

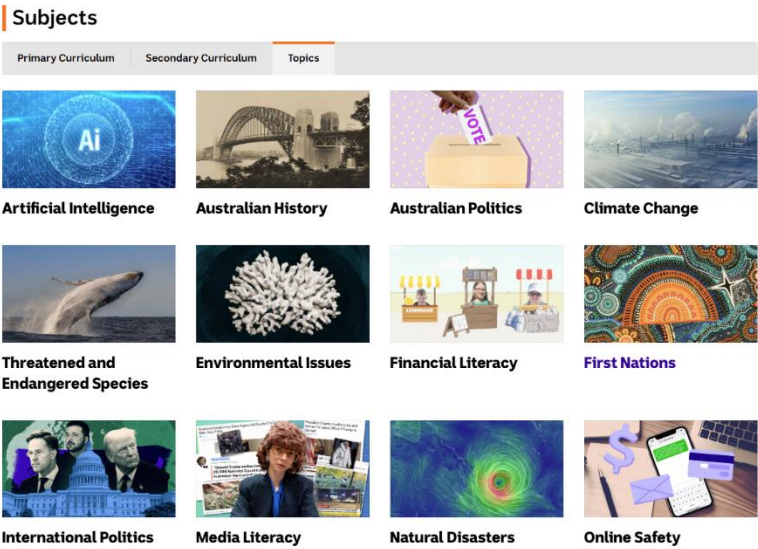
News Story	Why is it news? What makes it newsworthy?

Activity: Reflect on 2026

What was your best memory of a news event in 2026? Students can have a look through the BTN archives to remind them of the stories BTN covered this year.

Students will choose their top 5 news stories for 2026 and create their own quiz to test their classmates. Students’ quizzes should cover a range of categories, for example: environment, arts, health, finance, sport, education, politics, or entertainment.

Students can visit the [BTN subjects page](#) for a range of news topics to browse through. News stories can be a mix of local, national and world news. Students will give reasons why they think these are the top 5 news stories for 2026 (1-2 sentences for each news story).



Activity: Make your own news report

Students will have a go at making a news report. They'll produce a short video about an issue they feel strongly about or someone doing something interesting in their community. Alternatively, they could research an issue that affects their local community. Use [this checklist](#) to decide on a story to cover.

1. Choose someone in your community that you want to feature in your news report. Watch some of BTN's [Rookie Reports](#) for inspiration.
2. Write your story – Find out what makes a good feature story [here](#). Celebrate the persons' strengths in your writing. Share your story with the class.
3. Plan your report – Story board your news report on paper.
4. Make your news report – Check out the videos below for a range of tips on how to make a news report.



[Recording great audio](#)



[Shooting the story](#)



[Conducting interviews](#)

Activity: News in My Neighbourhood

ABC Education is running the **News in My Neighbourhood** competition which invites students to create and produce creative responses to a series of news and information challenges? Find out how to enter [here](#). *Please note, submissions close 23 November 2025.*



Activity: Get Your News Daily

Watch BTN every day! BTN Newsbreak is a great way to kick off the morning routine. You can watch Newsbreak anytime on our website or by subscribing to the [BTN YouTube](#) channel. Head to the [BTN website](#) for all the details.



Useful Websites

- [Which News Sources Can Be Trusted?](#) – BTN
- [Media Literacy Week](#) – BTN
- [Media Literacy Special](#) – BTN
- [New report: News and Young Australians in 2026](#) – Australian Media Literacy Alliance
- [The News Diet Challenge toolkit](#) – ABC Education
- [How To Deal with Upsetting News](#) – BTN