

EDITORIAL TEAM MEETING ACTIVITY

Learning outcome

To understand how journalists put the news together

Teacher Introduction

WHAT IS AN EDITORIAL MEETING?

In an editorial meeting, the editor and journalists decide which news stories should feature in the week's newspaper and in which section they should go.

HOW ARE THE DECISIONS MADE?

They make a judgment based on:

- The content of the stories: which stories they think are most important for their readers to know about
- The audience: which stories they think will be of most interest to the readers



Understanding that editorial teams put 'the news' together and make choices on what they choose to report is an important learning step for pupils, and will provide a useful grounding for developing their critical news literacy skills.

In this activity, pupils will act as the First News Editorial Team. They will discuss and debate news stories and make decisions on what they think should feature on the newspaper's front cover and as the in-depth news stories on Page 3.

Activity Preparation

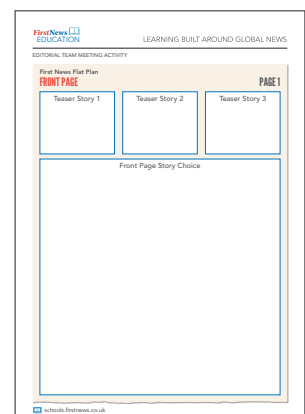
Children will work as an 'editorial team' in groups of three or four.

Each group will need:

- i) a set of news stories (ideally cut them up, so each story is on a separate sheet)



- ii) a newspaper flatplan



EDITORIAL TEAM MEETING ACTIVITY

Activity

1) Introduce the activity using the slides provided.

What is an editorial team?

How do they select news stories to feature?



First News' editorial team meeting

- First News' editorial meeting takes place on a Monday morning. Each issue of *First News* starts as a flatplan – a simple outline of the 28 pages that need to be created.
- The journalists and editor bring news stories to the editorial meeting that they have been researching and think have potential to feature in the week's newspaper.
- The Editorial Team talk through each story, and discuss and debate which ones are most important and of interest to *First News* readers

2) Group task: The Editorial Team Challenge

Pupils are going to be the First News Editorial Team. The 14 news stories provided are all real stories that featured in the news in the week of 3rd December 2018. Each team's task is to decide what they would have featured as:

- i) The **front cover** news story
It needs to be a very important story, and persuade *First News*' readers to pick up the newspaper and read it.
- ii) Three news stories to feature in the **Big News** section on page 3
This page also needs to contain the most important news stories of the week.
- iii) **Front page teasers**
These stories feature in the small picture boxes on the front page to excite and encourage readers to pick up the paper to read more.

In this activity, teamwork is essential. All members of the group must agree with the news story choices that are made AND be able to explain and justify the stories they have chosen to make the news.

3) Teaching advice

As you support groups challenge their thinking. For example, ask why one particular news story is more important than another. You can encourage them to debate whether a very serious news story works better on the front page or on the Big News page.

4) Plenary

Ask each group to feedback their front cover choice and why they chose this particular news story. Prompt them to think about the editorial guidelines linking to the audience and content of the story. How and why will it persuade *First News* readers to pick up the newspaper? Ask for the three stories they have chosen to feature as the Big News stories on Page 3. Discuss how many different front covers have been chosen by the different groups.

Compare their choices with the ones made by the *First News* editors and explore the idea that no team is right or wrong. It is just that the people making up an editorial team will all have different opinions and make different decisions about what is the most important news that should be featured.