TIME FOR KIDS

Unforgettable News Reports



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Teacher Created Materials
5301 Oceanus Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92649-1030
http://www.tcmpub.com

ISBN 978-1-4333-7945-9
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

That's News to Me!. 4
The Power of the Press. 8
Fighting Words. 16
Hello, World 24
Bigger Broadcasts. 30
On the Big Screen. 40
Real-Time News 48
Forecasting the Future. 56
Glossary. 58
Index 60
Bibliography 62
More to Explore 63
About the Author 64

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THAT'S NEWS TO ME!

There are all kinds of news. There's family news, school news, **local** news, and world news. Some news makes us happy. Other news makes us sad or worried. News happens everywhere, every day. Today, people learn about news almost as soon as it happens. It's easy to stay well informed.



- What are some of history's most unforgettable news stories?
- How does the way we learn about news change how we understand events?
- In what ways might we get news in the future?



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For thousands of years, the only news people heard was local news. But over time, new ways of spreading news were developed. The world's greatest events have been reported in many ways. But our desire to know what is happening has never changed. From local feuds to the birth of a new king, it has always been important to follow the news. And whenever or wherever it happens, the most powerful news is unforgettable.

Old News

The first newspapers appeared as early as the Roman Empire. Julius Caesar, the Roman Emperor, ordered that the events of the empire be announced along with information about births, marriages, and deaths.

Up in Smoke

Some ancient civilizations used drumbeats or smoke signals to communicate across great distances. But this wasn't always the best method. Weather could interfere with these messages. And if there weren't clear lines of sight between the two sides, some information would be lost.

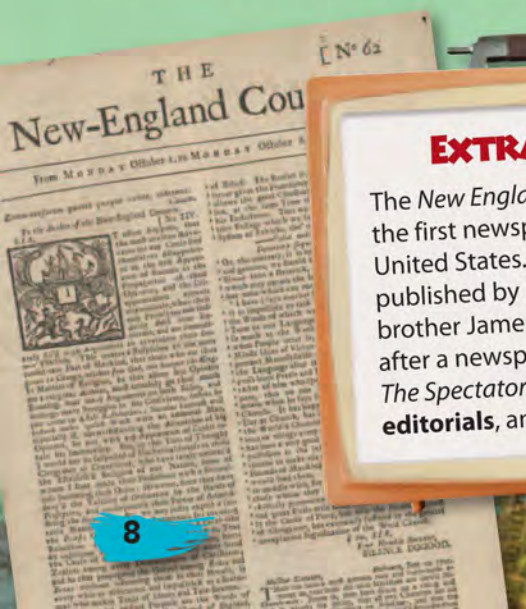
THE POWER OF THE PRESS

The game Telephone is played with a group of friends. One person whispers a piece of news to the next person. The last person in the circle says the news aloud. The fun comes at the end of the game when everyone hears how crazy the message has become.

During the 1700s, news traveled in the same way. Reports came **orally**, or by word of mouth. But oral news isn't always reliable. Mistakes can happen if someone hears the message incorrectly. Details can be forgotten. In the 1700s, many people didn't know how to read. Printing presses existed, but they were hard to use. There were few daily papers. Oral news wasn't perfect, but it was the most common way to learn about the latest events.

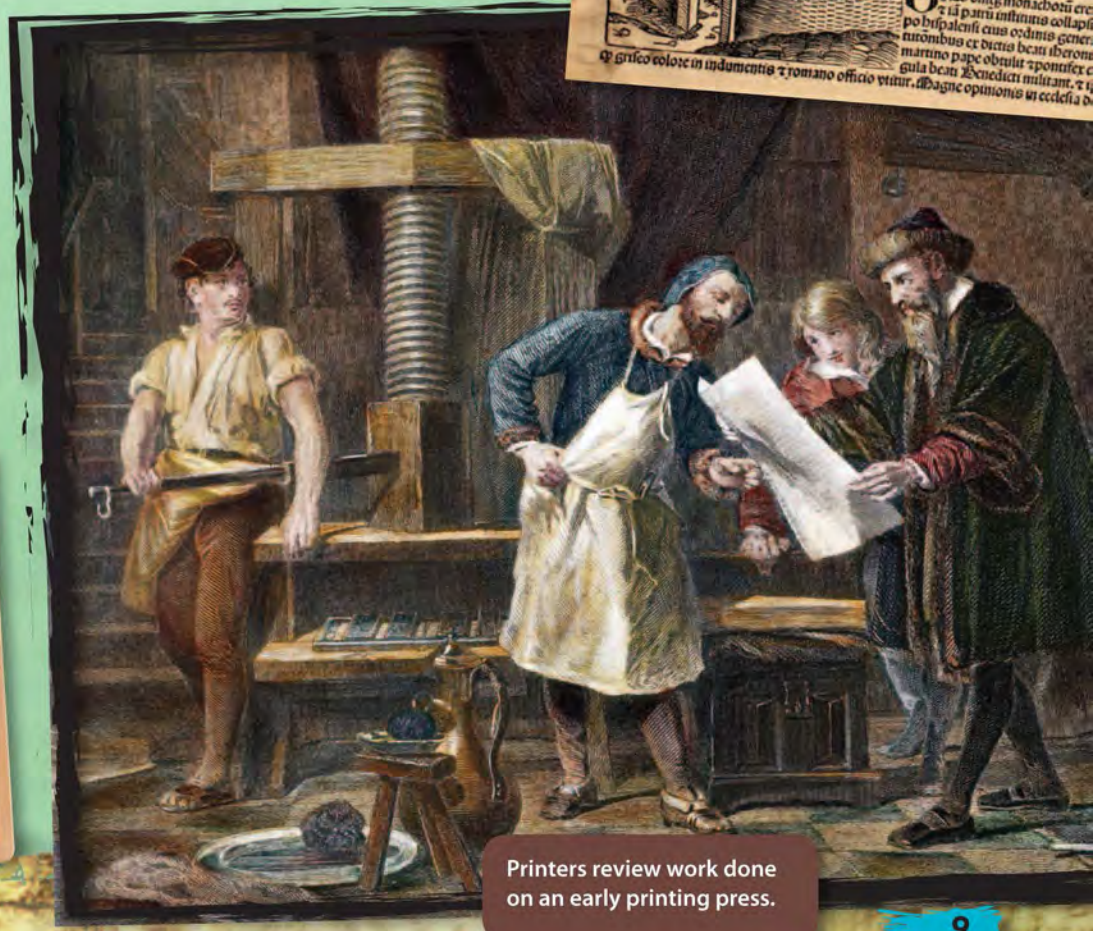
START THE PRESSES!

Before the year 1440, most books were handwritten. In 1440, Johannes Gutenberg made a machine with moveable type that pressed ink down on a page like a stamp. Before the printing press, most people couldn't read. But when books became easier to make, **literacy** rates rose across Europe.



EXTRA! EXTRA!

The *New England Courant* was one of the first newspapers printed in the United States. It was founded and published by Benjamin Franklin's brother James. It was modeled after a newspaper in England called *The Spectator*. It contained articles, **editorials**, and humorous writings.



Printers review work done on an early printing press.