

## Mini Page Activities 2011

**The Mini Page activities meet many state and national educational standards. Each week Dr. Sherrye D. Garrett, of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, identifies the standards that relate to *The Mini Page* content and activities are offered to help your students reach them.**

### **Working for the American Dream -- Issue 32 - August 9**

#### **This week's standard:**

Students understand how important historical events and developments have shaped the modern world. (Social Studies: Time, Continuity and Change)

#### **Activities:**

1. Find three really big things in the newspaper, such as ideas, objects or natural wonders. Paste them on a piece of paper. Tell why you chose them. 2. Circle five different inventions in the newspaper that have improved our everyday lives. Explain your choices. 3. Find an invention in the newspaper that has changed your own life. 4. How have these shaped our modern lives: (a) manufacturers, (b) railroads, (c) standard parts, and (d) reading? 5. Design a big project that would improve your community and include many people. Write a paragraph describing the project.

### **Celebrate a Muslim Holiday - Issue 31 - Aug 2, 2011**

#### **This week's standard:**

Students recognize that individuals have different cultural backgrounds that impact their lives. (Character Education: Respect)

#### **Activities:**

1. Draw a picture of yourself helping someone. Now paste newspaper words and pictures about helping other people around the edge of your paper. 2. In your newspaper, circle words and pictures that show different religious groups in your community. How many groups did you find? 3. Find at least five foods in the newspaper that your family would include in a special holiday. 4. How are these important to Muslims: (a) the Quran, (b) halal foods, (c) mosques, and (d) fasts? 5. Research a holiday celebrated by your family or community. Write about why and how it is celebrated.

### **A Trip to the Opera - Issue 29 - July 19, 2011**

#### **This week's standard:**

Students understand the ways that stories, music and artistic creations serve as expressions of culture. (Social Studies: Culture)

#### **Activities:**

1. Make a collage of newspaper words and pictures about music and plays. 2. Find five people in the newspaper who could help you put on an opera. Explain your choices. 3. Find newspaper ads for musical instruments and lessons that could help you prepare for an opera. 4. How are these important for opera: (a) sets, (b) studying languages, (c) Greek dramas, and (d) orchestras? 5. Select a newspaper story that would make a good subject for an opera. Write an outline for your opera. Include roles for a soprano, mezzo-soprano, contralto, tenor, baritone and bass.

### **Exploring Dinosaur Hall - Issue 28 - July 14, 2011**

#### **This week's standard:**

Students understand the relationship between organisms and the environment. (Science: Life Science)

**Activities:**

1. Make a game by writing the names of dinosaurs on note cards. Write facts about these dinosaurs on different cards. Have a friend match each dinosaur with the correct facts.
2. Circle five things in the newspaper that are bigger than a full-grown T. rex.
3. Find seven pieces of clothing or equipment that you would need on a dinosaur dig.
4. Which dinosaur (a) had a helmet head, (b) was as small as a chicken, (c) had two small horns, and (d) had a duckbill?
5. Pretend you are training new people at a dinosaur dig. Make a list of things you would tell the new workers.

**Strange Creatures Among Us -- Issue 27 -- July 5, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

€ Students understand the interactions of animals and their environments. (Science: Life Science)

**Activities:**

1. Draw two new unusual creatures, one that lives on land and one that lives in the water. Write sentences about your creatures.
2. Circle newspaper words that mean the same as "strange" or "unusual."
3. Find five different animals in the newspaper. Place them in a line from most common to least common.
4. Name other animals that (a) burrow in the ground, (b) have scales, (c) have long arms, and (d) are nocturnal.
5. Write a story about you and a friend having an adventure where you meet three of the animals in today's Mini Page. Be sure to include your reactions to the animals.

**American Symbols -- Issue 26 -- June 28, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Students understand how democratic values are exemplified by symbols. (U.S. History)

**Activities:**

1. Write the words "This is America!" in the center of a piece of paper. Then paste newspaper words and pictures that show symbols of America around your sentence.
2. What is your favorite American symbol? Write a few sentences explaining why.
3. Circle items in the newspaper that could be used as symbols for America's (a) beauty, (b) people, (c) foods, and (d) sports.
4. Design a new symbol for America. Draw it on a piece of paper and write a paragraph explaining what your symbol represents.
5. Use the Internet to learn about the symbols for your state. Create a poster showing the symbols. Write a paragraph describing how the symbols represent your state.

**Earth in Sixth Major Extinction -- Issue 25 -- June 21, 2011**

**This week's standards:**

Students understand changes in the Earth and sky. (Earth and Space Science)

**Activities:**

1. Use newspaper words and pictures to create a poster showing items and actions that will help the environment.
2. Create a timeline showing the changes in our planet. Use illustrations on your timeline.
3. Find two places of natural beauty in your community in your newspaper. Explain why they are important.
4. How were these important in the evolution of the planet: (a) Siberian Traps, (b) carbon dioxide,

(c) an asteroid, and (d) Pangaea? 5. Use the Internet to research an endangered animal. Write about it: How many exist? Where are they located? What groups are trying to protect the animal?

**Dolphin Tales -- Issue 23 -- June 7, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

**Students understand the characteristics and life cycles of organisms.**

(Science: Life Science)

**Activities:**

1. Draw a large dolphin on a piece of paper. Paste newspaper words that tell about dolphins around your picture. 2. In the newspaper, circle words or pictures for all the animals you can find that live in the ocean. 3. On a piece of paper, paste five items you could use to play in the ocean. Write sentences explaining your choices. 4. How are these important to dolphins: (a) pods, (b) clicks and whistles, (c) jawbones, and (4) sea sponges? 5. Use the Internet to learn about dolphin education and conservation trips. Find a trip you would like to take. Write a paragraph explaining your choice.

**Let's Get to Work -- Issue 22 -- May 31, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Entrepreneurs are individuals who like working for themselves.

(Economics)

**Activities:**

1. Use newspaper words to design a flier that says you are a good worker. 2. Paste newspaper pictures or comic strips on a piece of paper that show people doing a job you would like to do. Write a sentence telling why you like each job. 3. In the newspaper, circle five items needed for each of these jobs: lawn work, washing cars, taking care of pets. 4. Why are these important if you want to work in the summer: (a) a flier, (b) talking with your parents, (c) a contract, and (d) plans for your money? 5. Make a plan for summer work that uses your special skills. Write a paragraph describing your plan.

**Arlington National Cemetery -- Issue 21 -- May 24, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Students understand people and events honored in commemorative holidays. (History)

**Activities:**

1. Draw a flag on a piece of paper. Paste newspaper words that describe people who serve in the military around your flag. 2. In the newspaper, find the places in your community where there is a Memorial Day event. Put a star by the event you'd like to attend. 3. Design a full-page newspaper ad honoring people who have served in the military. 4. Why are these important to Arlington: (a) Robert E. Lee, (b) the number 21, (c) flags-in, and (d) slaves? 5. Make a list of reasons why we should honor people in the military. Use your list to write a poem honoring people who serve our country.

**Grab a Book!-- Issue 20 -- May 17, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Students identify forms and elements of literature. (Language Arts: Reading)

**Activities:**

1. Paste a newspaper picture on a piece of paper. Pretend it is the cover of a book. Write a title for your book. Write a sentence describing the book. 2. Choose five people in the newspaper. Find a

book from today's Mini Page that you would recommend for each of them. Explain your choices. 3. Which books in today's Mini Page are about real people or things? Which newspaper sections would these books fit in? 4. Which books would be good for these classes: (a) social studies, (b) science, (c) art, and (d) physical education? 5. Create a newspaper ad for your favorite book in today's Mini Page.

**Hummingbirds Spark the Skies -- Issue 19 -- May 10, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Students understand the interactions of animals and their environments. (Science: Life Science)

**Activities:**

1. Hummingbirds love red. Make a "Hummingbirds (heart) Red" poster using newspaper pictures of things that are red. 2. Circle newspaper pictures of animals as small as hummingbirds in red. Circle animals larger than hummingbirds in blue. 3. Divide a piece of paper into two columns. In one column, list ways hummingbirds are like most other birds. In the other column, list ways hummingbirds are different from other birds. 4. How are these important to hummingbirds: (a) sucrose, (b) Mexico, (c) the color red, and (d) white-tipped feathers? 5. Research the Internet for legends about hummingbirds. Then write your own legend that explains how the hummingbird got fast-beating wings.

**A Bouquet for Mom -- Issue 18 - May 3, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Students understand the characteristics and life cycles of organisms. (Science: Life Science)

**Activities:**

1. Paste newspaper pictures of flowers into your own "tussie-mussie" on a piece of paper. 2. In the newspaper, circle flower words or pictures that are used to show colors or fragrances. 3. Divide a piece of paper into two columns. In one column, write newspaper words for flowers or plants that are used for decoration. In the other column, list flowers or plants used in cooking. 4. How are these important in the plant world: (a) aroma, (b) nettles, (c) gnats, and (d) petals? 5. Select five of the flower symbols listed in The Mini Page. Assign each flower to a friend, based on that flower's meaning. Explain your choices.

**Pioneers of Flight -- Issue 17 - April 26, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Students understand the people, events, problems and ideas that were significant in creating the history of the country. (History)

**Activities:**

1. Draw a picnic basket. Use newspaper words/pictures of items to put in it for Charles Lindbergh. 2. Circle flying and space travel words in the newspaper. 3. Make a list of the Lindberghs' good qualities. Find someone in the newspaper who has the same qualities. 4. What famous aviator(s) (a) flew trials for the military in 1908, (b) was the first African-American to get a pilot's license, (c) was the first female aviation celebrity, and (d) was the first to fly nonstop across the Atlantic? 5. What "first" would you like to accomplish when you're grown? Write about it.

**Meet Illustrator Erin Stead -- Issue 15 -- April 12, 2011**

**This week's standards:**

Students comprehend and respond to a variety of images and text. Students identify forms and elements of literature. (Language Arts: Reading)

**Activities:**

1. Use newspaper words and pictures to make a poster showing things you would like to write about if you were an author.
2. Design a newspaper ad for one of the books in today's Mini Page.
3. Choose books in The Mini Page you would recommend to three different people in the newspaper.
4. Which author/illustrator (a) started at a young age, (b) works with children, and (c) writes about real people?
5. Select a title from one of the books in today's Mini Page. Now write your own story for that title.

**The Civil War -- Issue 14 -- April 5**

**This week's standard:**

Students understand that history relates to events and people of other times and places. (History)

**Activities:**

1. Design a memorial for the Civil War for an outside place in your community.
2. In your newspaper, circle stories from Northern states in blue. Circle stories from Southern states in red.
3. Find a local Civil War event in your newspaper that you would like to attend. Explain your choice.
4. What role did these play in the Civil War: (a) cotton, (b) Robert E. Lee, (c) Fort Sumter, and (d) Frederick Douglass?
5. Plan your own Civil War activity. Use your newspaper to find a place for the event, a restaurant to cater food, a speaker and entertainment.

**Are You a Poet? You Know It! -- Issue 13 -- March 29, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Students describe how words and phrases supply rhythm and meaning in poems. (Common Core Standards)

**Activities:**

1. Find an exciting newspaper picture. Write three short sentences about the picture. Write each sentence along one side of a large triangle.
2. With a friend, make a list of verses that help you remember something.
3. Circle newspaper headlines that show alliteration or assonance.
4. Circle newspaper words that end in the same sounds, such as -at, -ake or -amp. List the words. Use the words to make your own poem.
5. With a friend, pick two related things in the newspaper, such as sports teams or comic strip characters. Make a poem using words and phrases that describe your item. Now read your poems aloud, alternating lines.

**Roots & Shoots -- Issue 12 -- March 22, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Students demonstrate respectful and caring relationships in the family, workplace and community. (Family and Consumer Science: Interpersonal Relationships)

**Activities:**

1. Make a poster inviting people to join a Roots & Shoots group.
2. Circle newspaper headlines/photos of people, animals and something in the environment that need help in your community.
3. Ask friends which project they would like best: (a) community garden, (b) hats for babies, (c) rescue dogs, or (d) saving energy.
4. Draw a large tree. Write names of community groups that provide "roots" under the tree.

Write names of groups that help the community around the tree. 5. Find a newspaper story about a community group that is helping others. Write a paragraph describing its work. (

**The Black Hole Mystery -- Issue 11 -- March 15, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Students understand changes in the Earth and sky. (Science: Earth and Space Science)

**Activities:**

1. Draw a large picture of space. Include planets and stars. Paste newspaper words of things you would find in space as a border around your picture. 2. What is in the sky? In the newspaper, circle things in the sky that are man-made. Use a star to mark things that are natural. 3. On a piece of paper, list the three things that surprised you most about black holes. Then write two questions you still have. 4. What do these words tell you about black holes: (a) event horizon, (b) core, (c) singularity, and (d) density? 5. Write a short story about space explorers who discover a black hole.

**A Newspaper Reader -- Issue 10 -- March 8, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Students use the structure of text to construct meaning. (Language Arts:Reading)

**Activities:**

1. Draw pictures of people reading newspapers in four different places. 2. Draw a star on your favorite story or feature in these sections: local news, sports, and comic strips. 3. Have several friends tell you the "news" they would like to see in the newspaper. Make a front page with headlines for your friends' stories. 4. Circle something in the newspaper that shows how your paper is a (a) salesperson, (b) record keeper, (c) entertainer, and (d) community helper. 5. Read the editorials and letters to the editor for several days. Then write a paragraph explaining how these features are important for your community.

**Meet the Chimpanzee -- Issue 9 -- March 1, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Students understand the characteristics of organisms. (Science: Life Science)

**Activities:**

1. Use newspaper words to make a collage about chimps. 2. Ask friends if they can name some ways that chimps are similar to people. Then share what you have learned from The Mini Page with your friends. 3. Circle three items in the newspaper that you think chimps would like to play with. Explain why. 4. How did these items/activities show that chimps are intelligent: (a) twig fishing rod, (b) oil can, (c) sign language, and (d) tripping another chimp? 5. Use the Internet to learn about chimps' relatives in the ape family. Write a paragraph about your findings. How are they like chimps? How are they different?

**Put Your Heart Into It! -- Issue 8 -- February 22, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Describe relationships between personal health behaviors and individual well-being. (Health Promotion and Disease Prevention)

**Activities:**

1. Draw a large heart on a piece of paper. Paste newspaper words and pictures of things that are good for your heart on your drawing. 2. Ask

several family members and friends what they do to stay healthy. Make a list and put a star by the foods/activities that are good for the heart. 3. Use foods in the newspaper to design a heart-healthy meal for yourself. 4. How do these items relate to the heart: (a) nicotine, (b) arteries, (c) calories, and (d) chambers? 5. Design a one-week heart-healthy plan for yourself. List what you should eat each day. Write down the exercise or activities you will do.

#### **Unlocking Mr. Lincoln -- Issue 7 -- Feb. 15, 2011**

##### **This week's standard:**

Students use biographies and stories to understand the individuals who are honored by the nation. (Social Studies: History)

##### **Activities:**

1. Make an Abraham Lincoln book. Paste a newspaper word or picture about Lincoln on each page. Write a sentence for each word/picture. 2. Circle an example of each of these people in the newspaper: a lawyer, a state legislator, a U.S. congressman, a U.S. senator. 3. In the newspaper, find five modern jobs Abraham Lincoln could do < jobs that require intelligence and/or strength. 4. What events in Lincoln's life showed that he was (a) intelligent, (b) caring, (c) hard-working, and (d) determined? 5. Write a letter to Abraham Lincoln telling him how the country has changed since he was president.

#### **Mmmm! Chocolate! -- Issue 6 -- Feb. 8, 2011**

##### **This week's standards:**

Students have an understanding of the characteristics of organisms. (Life Science)

Students understand science and technology. (Science & Technology)

##### **Activities:**

1. Circle all chocolate items you can find in the newspaper. 2. Make up a new dish that uses two items from the food ads and chocolate. Describe your dish. 3. Make a list of all the different ways cacao/chocolate has been used through the years. 4. Put these events in the order in which they happened: (a) Spanish mixed chocolate with sugar, (b) the Maya made a chocolate drink, (c) Cadbury sold chocolate candy, and (d) a machine to grind cacao into paste was invented. 5. Write a paragraph discussing the role science and technology have played in the development of chocolate today.

#### **Calling the Game -- Issue 5 - Feb. 1, 2011**

##### **This week's standard:**

Students understand how to communicate information and ideas using a variety of media and formats. (Technology)

##### **Activities:**

Paste four newspaper words or pictures about specific sports on a piece of paper. Write one sentence for each that would encourage people to watch that sport on television. 2. Find three people in the newspaper you think would make good sports commentators. Explain your choices. 3. Circle comments in newspaper sports stories that provide viewpoints on the game. 4. Who on the sports team has to know about (a) the rules of the game, (b) how players move on the field, and (c) putting pictures and words together? 5. Record 10 minutes of sports on TV. Write a script that a sports commentator could use about the event.

#### **Let's Visit a Castle -- Issue 4 -- Jan. 25, 2011**

##### **This week's standards:**

Students understand the concepts, principles and processes of technological design. (Science) Students identify specific works of art as belonging to particular cultures, times and places. (Fine Arts: Understanding the Visual Arts in Relation to History and Cultures)

**Activities:**

1. Draw a room in a castle. In your room, paste newspaper pictures of furniture and other things you would put there. 2. Ask friends to name as many castle parts as they can. What did they name that also is on the castles in The Mini Page? 3. Find a comic strip character for each of the castles in The Mini Page. 4. Which castle would you choose for (a) safety, (b) beauty, (c) history, and (d) art? 5. Draw your house. Now add things to your house to make it more like a castle. Write a story about your house-castle.

**Tigers in Trouble -- Issue 3 -- Jan 18, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Students understand the interactions of animals and their environments. (Science: Life Science)

**Activities:**

1. Design a Save the Tiger poster that tells people about tigers. 2. Divide a paper into two columns. In one column put newspaper words or pictures of animals that need to live in large spaces. In the other column put words/pictures of animals that live in small spaces. 3. Circle newspaper pictures of animals that tigers might eat. How many are wild? 4. How are these important to tigers: (a) stripes, (b) preserves, (c) open spaces, and (d) governments? 5. Use the Internet to learn about people born in the Year of the Tiger. Then find three people in the newspaper who fit the description.

**Going Bananas -- Issue 2 - Jan. 11, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Students understand food science, dietetics and nutrition practices. (Family & Consumer Science)

**Activities:**

1. Draw a banana in the middle of a piece of paper. Paste newspaper pictures of different foods that could be made with bananas around your drawing. 2. Do a banana survey. Ask different people to name their favorite banana baked dessert, cold dessert, drink and sandwich. 3. Find fruits in the newspaper that are like bananas in some way. Explain how they are similar. 4. How are these important to bananas: (a) thick skin, (b) "daughter" shoots, (c) radishes, and (d) the United Fruit company? 5. Use the Internet to learn about the many uses for different parts of the banana plant. Write about what you learn.

**A Kid's 2011 Calendar -- Issue 1 -- Jan. 4, 2011**

**This week's standard:**

Students understand people and events honored in commemorative holidays. (History)

**Activities:**

1. Use newspaper pictures to make a calendar cover with a theme, such as sports or entertainment. 2. Pick five special weeks or months from the calendar. Now find a newspaper story that goes with each week/month. 3. Find a person, activity, and food in the newspaper that should have its own calendar day. Explain why. 4. Find an event you can celebrate (a) inside, (b) outside, (c) alone, and (d) with friends.

5. Select a special day/week/month from The Mini Page. Use the Internet to plan a trip to celebrate your special time. Where would you go? What would you do? How would you involve other people?