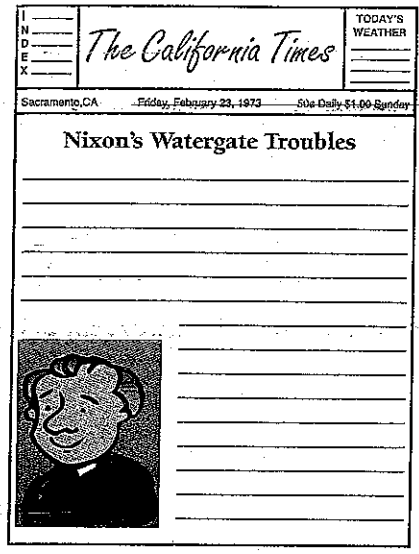
Presidential Headlines



Make front-page news this Presidents' Day with a headline-grabbin' **research and news-writing** activity! First, have each student choose a president and research an important event from his term in office, such as Richard Nixon and Watergate or Thomas Jefferson and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Have the student write a news article that tells the who, what, when, where, and why of the event. Then have him create a newspaper front page that features his edited article and other important parts of a newspaper page, such as those listed. Require that the newspaper's flag relate to the president, such as naming it *The Texas Tribune* after his birth state. Also stipulate that an article that continues onto a second page include a jump line telling the reader where the story is continued. Post the newspapers on a bulletin board titled "Presidents Make Headlines!" Adapt this activity to use during Black History Month or National Women's History Month. *Andrea Wohl—Gr. 5, Washington School, Westfield, NJ*

Newspaper Terms

flag—name of newspaper on the first page
headline—title of article
byline—name at top of article identifying the writer
dateline—city or place of article's origin
index—newspaper's alphabetized table of contents
cut—illustration or photo
cutline—cut's caption
ears—spaces left and right of flag used for weather or other information

March

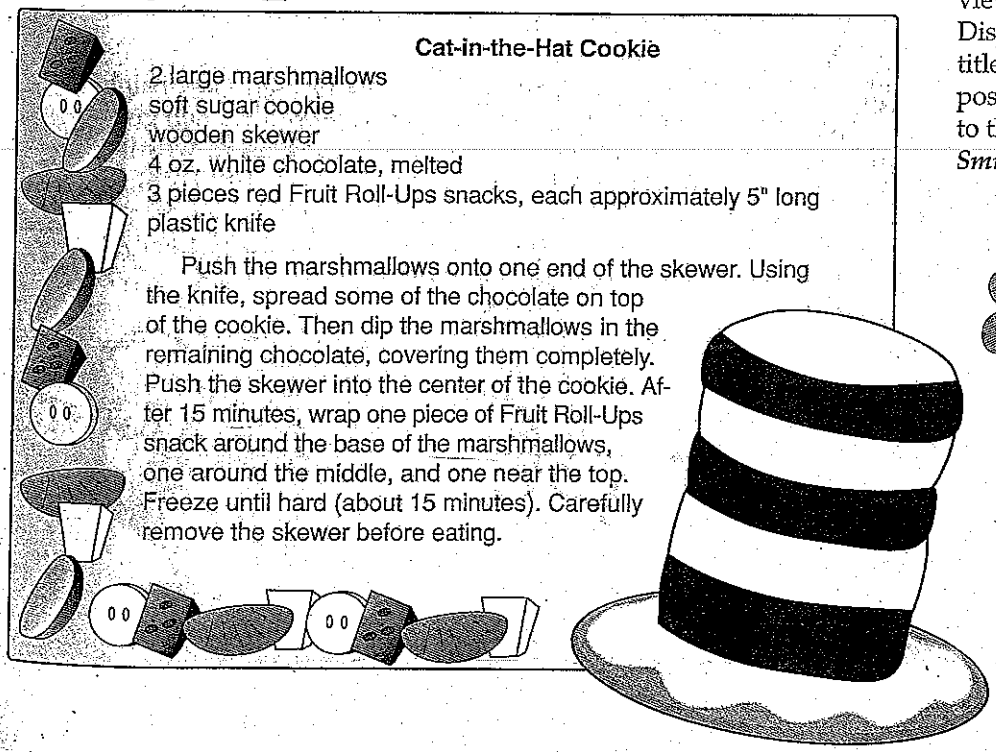
Hats Off to Dr. Seuss!

Celebrate the March 2 birthday of Dr. Seuss (Theodor Geisel) with a **how-to writing** activity that's topped off with a sweet surprise! Guide each student to make a Cat-in-the-Hat cookie according to the recipe shown. Afterward, have each cookie creator write a paragraph explaining how she made the treat. Culminate the activity by inviting staff members, parents, and special guests to share their favorite Dr. Seuss books with the class while students eat their special cookies. Happy birthday, Dr. Seuss! *Joann DeRosa-Sanderson, Grs. 4–6, Wilbur Watts Intermediate School, Burlington, NJ*

Cat-in-the-Hat Cookie

2 large marshmallows
soft sugar cookie
wooden skewer
4 oz. white chocolate, melted
3 pieces red Fruit Roll-Ups snacks, each approximately 5" long
plastic knife

Push the marshmallows onto one end of the skewer. Using the knife, spread some of the chocolate on top of the cookie. Then dip the marshmallows in the remaining chocolate, covering them completely. Push the skewer into the center of the cookie. After 15 minutes, wrap one piece of Fruit Roll-Ups snack around the base of the marshmallows, one around the middle, and one near the top. Freeze until hard (about 15 minutes). Carefully remove the skewer before eating.



Lucky Guesses

Find out if your students are feeling lucky with a St. Patrick's Day activity that sharpens **interviewing and informative-writing** skills. Divide the class into pairs and assign each twosome a staff member to interview. Then brainstorm a list of appropriate questions (see the examples). After the interviews have been completed, have each pair of students write a paragraph—without naming the interviewee—to share the answers to the questions. Display the paragraphs on a bulletin board titled "Feeling Lucky? Guess Who I Am!" If possible, add the interviewees' baby photos to the display. *OrLisa Johnson—Gr. 4, Newton Smith Elementary, Shreveport, LA*

Suggested Questions

How long have you worked at our school?
What do you like most about your job? Least?
What are your hobbies?
What is your favorite color? Food? TV show? Sport?
What is one thing most people don't know about you?