180 Days of FCAT!

FCAT Daily Activity
(180 Days: Reading, Writing, Math)

(Reading, Writing, Math)
FCAT Daily Activity
(180 Days: Reading, Writing, Math)

AND

Testing Vocabulary
(Reading, Writing, Math)

Use the following newspaper activities on a daily basis to prepare your students for the FCAT. 180 of them are provided in the areas of Reading & Language Arts, and Math. Feel free to pick and choose the ones you want to do with your students to meet their individual needs.

Also included are vocabulary words for the FCAT test questions. As these words appear frequently in the math and reading test questions, it is imperative that your students know what they mean…the first step in understanding the questions they need to answer! Find all this online, too!

The test question vocabulary on the next page can be used in the following ways:
1. One list of 5-10 words per week for the 9 weeks preceding the FCAT tests.
2. 2-3 words a week, from the beginning of the school year.
3. A word a day, as part of morning work or incorporate it into your math, reading, language arts, or spelling class time.
4. Any other way you can think of!

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### Grades 3-5 & 6-10 MATH test question vocabulary:
The following words appear frequently in FCAT Math Test questions. Knowing these words will enable students to understand what is being asked in the question, bettering their chances of arriving at the correct answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades 3-5 MATH</th>
<th>Grades 6-10 MATH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. all together</td>
<td>1. Length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. how many more</td>
<td>2. Width</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. equal</td>
<td>3. Height</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. most appropriate</td>
<td>4. Temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. times as many</td>
<td>5. Fahrenheit/Celsius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. difference / sum</td>
<td>6. Perimeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. operation</td>
<td>7. Diameter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. which of the following</td>
<td>8. Angle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. continue the pattern</td>
<td>9. Coordinates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. in geometric terms</td>
<td>10. Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. ordered pair</td>
<td>11. Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. measure</td>
<td>12. Figures/shapes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. graph/grid</td>
<td>13. Venn diagram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. symbol(s)</td>
<td>14. in each group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. few/many</td>
<td>15. calculate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional test question vocabulary, for Grades 6-10 MATH:
The following words appear frequently in FCAT Math Test questions. Knowing these words will enable students to understand what is being asked in the question, bettering their chances of arriving at the correct answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades 6-10 MATH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. mixed number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. improper fraction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. interior angle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. volume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. tessellation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. pitch (degrees)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. tessellated pattern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. dimensions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. map scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. increase/decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. reasoning/-able</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. 90º rotation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. 360º rotation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. proportional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. hourly rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. slope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. bi-weekly, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades 3-5 MATH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Surface area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Circumference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Radius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Vertices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Congruent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Formula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Diagram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Actual(ly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. 180º rotation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. 45º rotation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. cone/conical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. quantity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. diagonal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. estimate
2. Overlap/ping
3. Represent(s)
4. Expression
5. Inequality(ies)
6. Statement
7. Combinations
8. Most likely
9. Most appropriate
10. Survey(ed)
11. Data
12. Chart/table
13. value
14. route
15. factor/multiple
16. Equivalent/equivalency
17. At random
18. Reflected (over the axis)
19. Most accurate/accurately
20. Probability
21. Scientific notation
22. Equation
23. Determine
24. Mean, mode, median
25. equality
26. 270º rotation
27. flip / slide
28. cube/cubic
29. system of equations
30. cylinder/cylindrical
31. integer
Grades 3-10 READING Test Question Vocabulary: The following words appear frequently in FCAT Reading Test questions. Knowing these words will enable students to understand what is being asked in the question, bettering their chances of arriving at the correct answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. explain</th>
<th>1. inform</th>
<th>1. compare</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. section</td>
<td>2. fact</td>
<td>2. communicate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. final</td>
<td>3. opinion</td>
<td>3. consider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. paragraph</td>
<td>4. continuing</td>
<td>4. mostly about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. provided</td>
<td>5. emphasize</td>
<td>5. actually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. details</td>
<td>6. events</td>
<td>6. sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. based on</td>
<td>7. support</td>
<td>7. article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. resolve</td>
<td>8. subjective</td>
<td>8. describe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. conflict</td>
<td>9. headline</td>
<td>9. perform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. passage</td>
<td>10. emotion</td>
<td>10. persuade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. excerpt</td>
<td>11. author’s purpose</td>
<td>11. organizational pattern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. turning point</td>
<td>12. map key</td>
<td>12. cause/ effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. best supports</td>
<td>13. article</td>
<td>13. author’s/char.’s attitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Which factor has</td>
<td>14. phrase</td>
<td>14. essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed most….</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. interpretation</td>
<td>15. writing strategy</td>
<td>15. conclude(d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. create/build suspense</td>
<td>16. set/create the mood</td>
<td>16. statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. map key</td>
<td>17. context</td>
<td>17. prefix/suffix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. dialogue/quotation</td>
<td>18. plural</td>
<td>18. skim/scan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. rhyme</td>
<td>19. positive</td>
<td>19. summary/summarize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. writing strategy</td>
<td>20. comparison</td>
<td>20. synonym/antonym</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TEACHERS:

- Each activity is marked with the Sunshine State Standards for Reading & Math: (3rd-5th grades – 6th-8th grades).
- Take note of several activities that require 2-4 days to complete.
- Many activities can be completed in < 15 minutes.
- Some activities can take 30 minutes – whole class period.
- The short activities are perfect for morning work or to do at the beginning or ending of a class period.
- Be sure to provide your students with ample instruction on how to fill in the bubbles (especially for fractions, decimals, %) on the FCAT answer sheet. It’s a shame when corrected answers are marked wrong because they were recorded incorrectly!
Topic Index of 180 Days of Activities

READING TOPICS (ABC order)

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Context meaning: 20, 24, 74, 84, 85, 110, 141, 143, 155, 159, 172
Dialogue/Quotations: 30, 58, 74, 100, 135
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Fact/Opinion: 47, 65, 70, 76, 177
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Averages/Mean:  8, 15, 17, 21, 29, 31, 46, 55, 59, 87, 93, 101, 107, 109, 126, 133, 145, 148, 153, 154, 162
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Tessellations:  151
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180 Days of Newspaper FCAT Practice Activities

DAY 1
Test word: explain
What’s Ahead?  (LAA121, LAB121 - LAA131, LAB131)
Cut out a variety of headlines (only!) from the newspaper.  Have students pick a headline and work with a partner.  Using the headlines, they predict the content and/or purpose of the article/editorial.  Pairs can write a short summary of what they think the article is about.  Great AM journal writing activity!  Remind students to look up any words they do not know.

DAY 2
Test word: all together
>More than, <Less than : Hundreds to Thousands (MAA221) (Gr. 3-5)
Find a number or numbers in today’s newspaper that is/are less than 1997 but more than 100.  How many in the thousands?  Hundreds?

DAY 3
Test word: sum
>More than, <Less than: Millions to Billions (MAA221) (Grades 4-6)
Find numbers in today’s newspaper that are more than a million.  Any ten millions?  Any hundred millions?  Any billions?  Have students create a place value chart to record the numbers they found (and note the page # next to each one!)

DAY 4
Test word: section
Long Vowel “A”/Digraphs (LAA122 & following directions) (Grades 1-5)
Have students locate the long “A” sound in words (ai, ay, a”consonant”e, etc.) in the newspaper.  Assign them an article or a specific page.  Divide class into small teams or pairs.  Using a timer, give them 5 minutes to look for them.  One team member is responsible for circling the words, another writes down the words found, underlining the vowel digraph.  Teams can also record their words in columns; labeled “ai”, “ay”, a”consonant” e, etc.  Teams get a point for each one found and recorded correctly.

DAY 5
Test word: value
Expanded Form  (MAA221 – MAA131)
Find at least 5 numbers in today’s newspaper which have more than five digits.  Write these numbers in expanded form.  Take note of the page #’s where you found them.

DAY 6
Test word: details
Match, Set, Game  (LAA122 - LAA132)
Find an article that has a detailed description of a place or event.  Draw a picture based on exactly what is written in the news story.  Make a game out of it.  Cut out news stories and arrange them out of order with the pictures.  Have students try to match the pictures with the stories.  Students can work in teams.  Make this a monthly event!

DAY 7
Test word: phrase
Beginning Digraphs & Blends  (LAA122) (Grades 1-5)
According to the needs of your students, have them locate beginning phonic sounds (ph, str, thr, scr, sh, ch, fl, etc.) in a news article.  You may want to set students up in teams or pairs.  Teams get points for finding them correctly and sounding them out.  You also can assign an unusual sound and challenge all teams to find one!
DAY 8
Test word: average/mean
UV (Ultra Violet) Rays (MAA322 – MAA332)
Look at the UV index numbers for 10 AM, Noon, 2 PM & 4 PM today. What is the average UV index for today? Based on this number, what is the need for sun protection?

DAY 9
Test word: estimate (verb)
Measuring Estimate (MAB121, MAA421 – MAB231, MAB232)
See if you can find the longest word on the front page of the newspaper. Measure how long it is (in inches & centimeters). Using that word, what would you estimate the width of the newspaper to be (folded out)? How would you figure it out? For older students, have them measure it in inches and convert it to centimeters.

DAY 10
Test word: passage
D.E.A.R. Share/Main Idea (LAA122, LAA224 – LAA132, LAA234)
As an alternative to reading books during DEAR time, have students find an article that is interesting to them and then read it. Encourage students to then reread the article and underline any important facts or details. Give them a visual organizer so they can write out the 5 W’s (Who, What, When, Where, Why – and How!) Then, have students share their articles with the class, retelling briefly what the article is about (the main idea), and why they chose that particular article. This activity encourages your students to be verbally articulate!

DAY 11
Test word: difference
Sun and Moon – August (MAB321 - MAB331)
According to the times listed on the weather page, how many hours of daylight will there be tomorrow? How may hours of darkness tonight? How many hours of the day is the moon visible? How many days until the next Full Moon?

DAY 12
Test word: compare
Suffix City (LAA123–LAA132)
Comparison of Characters (LAE227, LAE232– LAE132)
-ful, -less suffixes can describe something or someone who has an over abundance or a lack of something. Find two articles in the newspaper written about a person. Compare the two “characters” and make a comprehensive list of their “-ful”’s and “-less”’s based on the information/details in the articles. Explain why you think so.

DAY 13
Test word: map key
National Forecast – Map Reading – summer (LAA122 – LAA132)
In which areas of the country do you find a forecast for showers? Thunderstorms? Rain? Flurries? Snow? Ice? Use the map symbol key. Refer to the following areas: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Northwest, and Southwest.

DAY 14
Test word: perimeter
Rectangle Perimeter (MAB121 – MAB131)
Find a rectangular ad in today’s newspaper. If you measure two of the sides (length & width), can you tell what the perimeter is? Measure in inches & centimeters.
DAY 15
Test word: data
Long-term FCAT activity: High & Low Temps (MAD121, MAE133, MAE331) (Grades 6-8)
Have each student pick a state; track the high and low temperatures for its capital city; find the range and averages for a month. Create individual and group data tables; summarize by categorizing states with similar temperature patterns (whole class activity). Use a computer spread-sheet program to keep track of data and display results.

DAY 16
Test word: paragraph
Main Idea (LAA221 – LAA231)
Teach your students, using the newspaper, that the main idea of an article or reading passage is usually evident in the first or second paragraph. The last paragraph or two will usually wrap it up. Give your students article clippings without their headlines.

Teachers: Keep the headlines and spread them out on a table for students to match up with their articles after they’ve finished their work.

Have them determine the main idea in pairs, then have them work up to doing it individually. Pair students who struggle with finding the main idea with a stronger partner. Their peer tutor will model a pattern of success.

DAY 17
Test word: temperature
Extreme Temps – August (MAA122, MAA322, MAE122 – MAA132, MAA332, MAE132)
Located at the bottom of U.S. Cities’ temperature reports on the weather page, read the extreme high and low temperatures for today. What is the difference between them? What is the average of these two temperatures? Does this average correlate with temperatures around the country?
Geography challenge: Locate the extreme temp cities on the U.S. map. How far apart are they? Use the mileage key and a ruler to find out!

DAY 18
Test word: sequence
Find it! (LAA121)
Using the index on the front page and/or scanning the newspaper have students find:
• a word puzzle (sections B or E – crosswords, jumble)

DAY 19
Test phrase: continue the pattern
Peruse for Patterns (MAD121 – MAD131)
Look for number patterns in today’s newspaper. Will you find them in the sports section, on the weather page, money section, or stock listings? Look for a pattern of at least 3-4 numbers. What comes next? You figure it out, then try to stump your neighbor! Discuss patterns found in class. Note newspaper page #’s.

DAY 20
Test word: context (between the text/words)
Context Clues (LAA122 - LAA132)
Have individuals or pairs read an article and locate at least 3 unknown vocabulary words. Before reading, give students a mini-lesson on constructing meaning using context clues. Students circle each vocab word with a different color and then underline the clues for that word in the same color. Assign students to write the word and its meaning with a magic marker on a piece of 8 1/2” X 11” paper, in big letters, and post it along with the news article. Encourage students to use these words in their journal, expository, or creative writing assignments. You don’t really learn them until you use them!
DAY 21
Test word: median
Sunny Florida – summer (MAE122 – MAE132)
Find the average, mean, and median temperatures for Florida cities for today in the Travelers’ Forecast (Weather page). For an extended project, do this activity in the summer, fall, winter, and spring. Save your results for graphing in the spring!

DAY 22
Test word: details
Rhyming Pairs (Phonograms) (LAA123)
Challenge students to find rhyming pairs of words in an article or section of the newspaper. Instruct students to circle the words and keep track of the ones they find on a separate piece of paper, divided into columns. How many kinds of rhymes can they find? Use this rhyme bank later to create poetry!

DAY 23
Test word: degrees Fahrenheit
National Forecast – Map Reading – summer II (LAA122 – LAA132)
Using the color-coded temperature range chart located above the U.S. map, which area/state/city shows temperatures in the 100’s? 80’s? 60’s? 50’s?

DAY 24
Test phrase: based on
Positive Press (LAA221 - LAA132)
Find an article in today’s newspaper which reports about something good that happened. What qualities does this happening or person exemplify? (perseverance, humanity, endurance, dependability, responsibility, humility, honesty, etc.) Give details from the article to support each theme you choose. Teachers: Create a “Positive Press” bulletin board!

DAY 25
Test word: table (math)
River Stages: Drought or Flood? – summer (MAA322 – MAA332)
Pick one or two rivers on the list included in the weather page. Alabama River, Escambia River, etc. What is the difference between the actual reading and the flood height? From these readings, can you tell if any of these rivers are near drought or flood stages? Discuss your results. Compare river stages during different seasons.

DAY 26
Test word: final
Find it! (LAA121)
Using the index on the front page and/or scanning the newspaper have students find:
• a man who died who is over 65 years old (section C) – How many children did he have? What is one interesting fact about his life?

DAY 27
Test word: measure
Newspaper Area (MAB121 – MAB131)
Find a large photo in your favorite section of the newspaper. Measure and draw lines at 1 inch intervals along the base and side of the picture, creating a grid pattern. Using these 1 inches boxes, what is the approximate area of the photograph? See example.

DAY 28
Test word: consider
Long Vowel “E” /Digraphs (LAA122 & following directions) (Grades 1-5)
Have students locate the long “E” sound in words (e, ee, ea, ei, etc.) in the newspaper. Assign them an article or a specific page. Divide class into small teams or pairs. Using a timer, give them 5 minutes to look for them. One team member is responsible for circling the words, another writes down the words found, underlining the vowel digraph. Teams can also record their words in columns; labeled “ee”, “ea”, “ei”, etc. Teams get a point for each one found and recorded correctly.

DAY 29
Test word: degrees Celsius
Global Extremes/Sept. (MAA122, MAA322, MAE122 – MAA132, MAA332, MAE132) Check out the world cities listing of “Hi” and “Lo” temperatures today. What is the lowest temperature? The highest? Can you find a higher or lower temperature in any of the U.S. cities? Find the difference and average of the high & low temps.

DAY 30
Test word: dialogue
Divulge the Dialogue (LAB223 – LAB233) Find an article in today’s local section which includes quotes/dialogue. Pick out them out and take note of who was speaking. Then, recreate the conversation that might have taken place between the reporter and the person/people being interviewed. Be sure to add correct punctuation, quotation marks in appropriate places, and add “speaker tags”, such as …the reporter questioned, asked the reporter, replied Mr. White, answered Mr. White, etc.

DAY 31
Test word: approximately
Average Chance of Rain – September (MAE122 – MAE132) What is the average chance of rain this week? Use the information in the five-day forecast to calculate your answer.

DAY 32
Test word: plural
Ending Digraphs & Blends (LAA122) (Grades 1-5) According to the needs of your students, have them locate ending phonic sounds (-ing, -ft, -lm, -mp, -sp, -tion, -ies, -ent, -ment, etc.) or plural endings in a news article. You may want to set students up in teams to look for plural endings/other ending sounds. Teams get points for finding them correctly and sounding them out. You also can assign an unusual sound and challenge all teams to find one!

DAY 33
Test word: multiple
Multiple Mania 2 (MAA521 - MAA531) You’re on a search for multiples in today’s newspaper. Find multiples of the number 2! What is a multiple? Look it up in the glossary at the back of your math book (Shame on you!). Circle the multiples you find and share them with the class.

DAY 34
Test word: prefix
Pro/Con Prefix Power (LAA123 – LAA132) There are a lot of ways to say “no, not, or opposite”: Anti-, dis-, im-, in-, mis-, non-, un-, de-. Students might have more success looking for these prefixes in an editorial, letters to the Editor, or the comics. Prefixes should be circled and the root word underlined. Students can then see if any of the prefixes and root words can be mixed & matched. Model this for them. Pairs or teams can find them and then see how many words they can create with all the roots & prefixes. Do they know what all the words mean? Use the dictionary!
DAY 35
Test word: units
Perfect Perimeter (MAB121 – MAB131)
Find a square ad or photo in today’s newspaper. If you measure one of the sides, can you tell what the perimeter is? Measure in inches & centimeters.

DAY 36
Test phrase: author’s purpose
With a Purpose (LAA222 – LAA232)
News articles inform with many different purposes: public service, honor community members, entertain, persuade/opinion, etc. Have your students read a variety of articles and challenge them to determine the purpose of them being in print/or what was the writer’s purpose? First, show your student examples of articles with different purposes. Talk about key vocabulary words which give the reader clues!

DAY 37
Test word: dimensions
Estimate the Ad Space (MAB121 – MAB131)
Find an ad you like in the local section of today’s newspaper. Using estimation, how many ads of its size could fill one page of the newspaper. (Dimensions for fillable space should be about 11 1/2 “ X 20”.

DAY 38
Test word: suffix
Newspaper MadLibs – Part I
- Sassy Suffixes (LAA123 – LAA132)
Students locate –ar, -er, -or (meaning “one who”) words, as well as any vocabulary words in the article they don’t know the meaning of. Look at “Part II” for the next step in this four-part series of activities! Students should save all these words!

DAY 39
Test word: provided
Newspaper MadLibs – Part II
- Sassy Suffixes (LAA123 – LAA132)
Students locate –able & -ible (meaning “is, can be”) words, as well as any vocabulary words in the article they don’t know the meaning of. Look at “Part III” for the next step in this three-part series of activities! Students should save all these words!

DAY 40
Test word: communicate
Newspaper MadLibs – Part III
- Sassy Suffixes (LAA123 – LAA132)
Students locate –en (meaning “to make”) words, as well as any vocabulary words in the article they don’t know the meaning of. Look at “Part IV” for the last step in this three-part series of activities! Students should save all these words!
DAY 41
Test word: conclude(d)
Newspaper MadLibs – Part IV
• Sassy Suffixes (LAA123 – LAA132)
• Cloze sentences (LAA122)
   -ar, -er, -or (one who) / -able, -ible (is, can be) / -en (to make)

A ________ who is __________ can __________ his/her ____________.
   (one who)   (-able, -ible)   (-en)   vocab word (noun)

Using all the words they gathered in steps I-III, students can make up fun, nonsensical sentences using the words they found. For an added challenge, have students rewrite the sentence in other words so it matches the meaning of the original one.

For example:
Original sentence: A doctor who is flexible can frighten his congestion.
Rewritten: A physician who can bend easily can scare his filled-up chest away.

DAY 42
Test word: inform
Find it! (LAA121)
Using the index on the front page and/or scanning the newspaper have students find:
• an article about schools (Local-section C)

DAY 43
Test word: height
Tide Patterns (MAA122, MAA322 – MAA132, MAA332)
Check out the high & low tides for Pensacola for this week. What patterns can you find? Compare all high tides, all low tides, and the difference between highs & lows over the seven day period. Explain your findings.

DAY 44
Test word: emphasize
Main Idea (LAA221 – LAA231)
Teach your students, using the newspaper, that the main idea of an article or reading passage is usually evident in the first or second paragraph. The last paragraph or two will usually wrap it up. Give your students article clippings without their headlines.

Teachers: Keep the headlines and spread them out on a table for students to match up with their articles after they’ve finished their work.

Have them determine the main idea in pairs, then have them work up to doing it individually. Pair students who struggle with finding the main idea with a stronger partner. Their peer tutor will model a pattern of success.

DAY 45
Test word: article
Find it! (LAA121)
Using the index on the front page and/or scanning the newspaper have students find:
• an article about computers (Technology-section C)

DAY 46
Test word: mode
How Does Alabama Compare? (MAE122 – MAE132)
Find the average, mean, mode, and median temperatures for Alabama cities for today in the Travelers’ Forecast (Weather page). How do these compare to Florida’s? Give specific information about the differences between the two states and write a short paragraph explaining your results.
DAY 47
Test word: opinion
Is that a Fact? Furniture (LAA226 – LAA238)
Look through the classifieds & other sections and peruse the furniture ads. Which do you think is factual information or is a subjective opinion given by the owner or furniture store? Underline the facts in black, the opinions in red. Discuss as a class and make a two-column table comparing the fact vs. opinion words/phrases.

DAY 48
Test word: graph
Tickle Your Elbow Awards (MAA122, MAE321 – MAA132, MAE131)
Have students turn to the comics and give them 5 minutes to read all of the strips. Then have them rank the five funniest by numbering them 1 to 5, with 1 being the funniest. Write their #1 choices on the board. Then students can graph the results of the class poll and compute the percentage of the vote each strip received. Make bar and/or pie graphs. Extend by asking for range, mode, and median.

DAY 49
Test word: fact
Long Vowel “I” /Digraphs (LAA122 & following directions) (Grades 1-5)
Have students locate the long “I” sound in words (i”consonant”e, ) in the newspaper. Assign them an article or a specific page. Divide class into small teams or pairs. Using a timer, give them 5 minutes to look for them. One team member is responsible for circling the words, another writes down the words found, underlining the vowel digraph. Teams can also record their words in columns; labeled “ee”, “ea”, “ei”, etc. Teams get a point for each one found and recorded correctly.

DAY 50
Test word: determine
Sun and Moon – October (MAB122 – MAB132)
According to the times listed on the weather page, how many hours of daylight will there be tomorrow? How may hours of darkness tonight? How many hours of the day is the moon visible? How many days until the next Full Moon?

DAY 51
Test word: actually
Double O find (LAA122 & following directions) (Grades K-2)
Students are looking for short “oo” sound as in good and the long “oo” sound as in “soon”. See the above two activities for management ideas.

DAY 52
Test word: map scale
National Forecast – Map Reading – fall (LAA122 – LAA132)
In which areas of the country do you find a forecast for showers? Thunderstorms? Rain? Flurries? Snow? Ice? Use the map symbol key. Refer to the following areas: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Northwest, and Southwest.

DAY 53
Test word: turning point
Find it! (LAA121)
Using the index on the front page and/or scanning the newspaper have students find:
• time & place for a local football, basketball, baseball, or soccer game
DAY 54
Test word: in geometric terms
Rhyming Pairs (Phonograms) & Geometry (LAA123, MAC121)
Enrichment: If they find more than 2, they can create a triangle, 4 creates a square, rectangle or quadrilateral, and so on. Students should name their shapes – ex.) top, cop, stop, crop, flop (forms a pentagon) could be called pentag"op".
Whole page searches are even more challenging!

DAY 55
Test word: how many more
Extreme Temps – October (MAA122, MAA322, MAE122 – MAA132, MAA332, MAE132)
Located at the bottom of U.S. Cities’ temperature reports on the weather page, read the extreme high and low temperatures for today. What is the difference between them? What is the average of these two temperatures? Does this average correlate with temperatures around the country?
Geography challenge: Locate the extreme temp cities on the U.S. map. How far apart are they? Use the mileage key and a ruler to find out!

DAY 56
Test word: excerpt
D.E.A.R. Share/Main Idea (LAA122, LAA224 – LAA132, LAA234)
As an alternative to reading books during DEAR time, have students find an article that is interesting to them and then read it. Encourage students to then reread the article and underline any important facts or details. Give them a visual organizer so they can write out the 5 W’s (Who, What, When, Where, Why – and How!) Then, have students share their articles with the class, retelling briefly what the article is about (the main idea), and why they chose that particular article. This activity encourages your students to be verbally articulate!

DAY 57
Test word: expression (math)
Presents! (MAA322, MAB321, MAE121 – MAA332, MAB331, MAE131)
You like to do your holiday shopping REALLY early. Make a list of who you need to shop for first. Then, make a wish list of what you’d like to get them. Now look for these items in today’s newspaper. If what you’re looking for isn’t there, you may need to adjust your list. Buy only one item for each person on your list. What did you spend? Have the class create a graph showing how much they spent on each person, or compare how much each student spent all together.

DAY 58
Test word: interpretation
Play by Play (LAA225, LAB223 - LAB131, LAB233)
Read an article about a sporting event in today’s sports section. Pretend you are the sportscaster for this event. Write an “ad lib” of what you might say during the course of this game. Be sure to use quotation marks and punctuation appropriately. Include a second commentator for a challenge!

DAY 59
Test word: mode
Sunny Florida - fall (MAE122 – MAE132)
Find the average, mean, and median temperatures for Florida cities for today in the Travelers’ Forecast (Weather page). For an extended project, do this activity in the summer, fall, winter, and spring. Save your results for graphing in the spring!

DAY 60
Test word: article
Personal Suffix City (LAA123 – LAA132)
Brainstorm a list of –ful and –less words with your class. Use the newspaper to help you find some. Divide your paper in half and label each column “ful” and “less”. Next to the “ful” which describes you (circle it), write its corresponding “less” on the other side & vice versa. Share your results with classmates if you want to.
DAY 61
Test phrase: in each group
Pairing Up (MAA322 – MAA331)
Your teacher wants you to read the obituaries in small groups of equal size. Count the number of obituaries and figure out how many students will be in each group. Due to an odd number, some groups may have one more or one less than another.

DAY 62
Test word: mostly about
Find it! (LAA121)
Using the index on the front page and/or scanning the newspaper have students find:
• programs on Discovery Channel tonight (section B) – take note of times & titles

DAY 63
Test phrase: which statement
Sequencing - Predict the Plot (LAA221 - LAA231)
Read a news/feature article in today’s newspaper. Write out the events of the story in the order in which they happened, allowing space between each line. Cut apart each event on the paper into strips. Mix them up. Exchange strips with someone else. Using the article, put the strips in order (number them). Challenge: Without the article, try to put the events in order. Then, use the article to see if you’re right!
Teachers: You may want to save all your students’ work – keep event strips and corresponding articles in envelopes for students to work on anytime!

DAY 64
Test word: represent(s)
National Forecast – Map Reading – fall II (LAA122 – LAA132)
Using the color-coded temperature range chart located above the U.S. map, which area/state/city shows temperatures in the 90’s? 70’s? 60’s? 50’s? 40’s?

DAY 65
Test word: subjective
Is that a Fact? Clothing (LAA226 – LAA238)
Look through the classifieds & other sections and peruse the Department store ads. Which do you think is factual information or is a subjective opinion given by the store advertiser? Underline the facts in black, the opinions in red. Discuss as a class and make a two-column table comparing the fact vs. opinion words/phrases.

DAY 66
Test word: actual
River Stages: Drought or Flood? – fall (MAA322 – MAA332)
Pick one or two rivers on the list included in the weather page. Alabama River, Escambia River, Choctawatchee River, Apalachicola River, Pascagoula River, or the Tombigbee River. What is the difference between the actual reading and the flood height? From these readings, can you tell if any of these rivers are near drought or flood stages? Discuss your results. Compare river stages during different seasons.

DAY 67
Test word: headline
What’s Ahead? (LAA121, LAB121 - LAA131, LAB131)
Cut out a variety of headlines (only!) from the newspaper. Have students pick a headline and work with a partner. Using the headlines, they predict the content and/or purpose of the article/editorial. Pairs can write a short summary of what they think the article is about. Great AM journal writing activity! Remind students to look up any words they do not know.
DAY 68
Peruse for Patterns (MAD121 – MAD131)
Test word: equation
Look for number patterns in today’s newspaper. Will you find them in the sports section, on the weather page, money section, or stock listings? Look for a pattern of at least 3-4 numbers. What comes next? You figure it out, then try to stump your neighbor! Discuss patterns found in class. Note newspaper page #’s.

DAY 69
Test phrase: most likely
Time for the Movies! (MAB122 – MAB132)
Yeldina went to church Sunday morning with her family. The clock at left shows the time she returned home. She and her family want to go to the movies this afternoon. Check the movie listings in today’s newspaper. How much time do they have before the movies start? (Assume it will take about 20 minutes to travel to the movie theater). Are there any movie times which allow them to have lunch at home first? Explain what you think Yeldina and her family can do.

DAY 70
Test word: describe
Enticing Editorial (LAA223–LAA232)
Fact & Opinion (LAA226–LAA238)
• Read 2 or more news editorials carefully. What is his/her viewpoint? If you disagree with it, write your own editorial persuading the reader to go the other way.
• Look through the editorial(s) and underline the facts in black and the opinions in red. Discuss with class or share with a partner or small group.

DAY 71
Test phrase: which of the following
Multiple Mania 3 (MAA521 - MAA531)
You’re on a search for multiples in today’s newspaper. Find multiples of the number 3! What is a multiple? Look it up in the glossary at the back of your math book (Shame on you!). Circle the multiples you find and share them with the class.

DAY 72
Test word: best supports
4-Square it! (LAA221 - LAA231)
Have students read an article which they find interesting or use an editorial. Have students 4-square the article (see graphic example below), including main idea (or create topic sentence), hooks, transition words, details for each paragraph topic (pick out most important paragraphs), etc. 4-square - backwards!
**DAY 73**

**Test word:** equivalent/equivalency

**Fractional Ads** (MAA122, MAB122 - MAA132, MAB132)

Find ads in today’s newspaper which are a 1/2 page, 1/4 page, 1/8 page, 1/12 of a page, 1/24 of a page, and 1/60 of a page. Label each one with the correct fraction, color over the ad lightly with crayon or colored pencil, then paste onto another page in the newspaper. You will need a ruler to do this activity. See example.

**DAY 74**

**Test phrase:** support your answer

**Going Mad for Questions** (LAA225 - LAA235)

Stories about top players will tip off any sports season. Look for these stories in the sports section. Challenge your students to construct the questions the reporter may have asked in getting the information for the story. Think backwards and be mad!

**DAY 75**

**Test word:** congruent

**Shape Up!** (MAC121, MAC222 – MAC131, MAC231)

How many different shapes can you find in today’s newspaper? Label them by name (square, rectangle, triangle, circle, trapezoid, etc.) Look carefully! Set the timer for 10-15 minutes. Challenge students to find, circle, and count all the shapes they can find. Student who finds the most wins! Prizes also for finding the most unusual shapes!
DAY 76
Test words: fact/opinion
Is that a Fact? Cars (LAA226 – LAA238)
Look through the classifieds and peruse the car ads. Which do you think is factual information or is a subjective opinion given by the car owner or dealership? Underline the facts in black, the opinions in red. Discuss as a class and make a two-column table comparing the fact vs. opinion words/phrases.

DAY 77
Test word: Venn diagram
TV Time (MAB122 – MAB132)
Look through today’s TV listings in the newspaper. Circle all the programs which you’d be interested in watching. If you watched all of these programs, how many hours would you be watching TV? Compare your results on Tuesday & Thursday. Create a Venn diagram to compare what you’d be watching on both days.

DAY 78
Test word: skim/scan
Find it! (LAA121)
Using the index on the front page and/or scanning the newspaper have students find:
• an ad for your favorite dog (Also, price! Have students read the number.)

DAY 79
Test word: data table
Where is it happening? – Two Day Activity – DAY ONE (MAD121, MAE123 – MAD131, MAE131, MAA431)
Make a list of all the countries mentioned in the newspaper in the next two days. If a country is mentioned twice, three times, etc., make a note of it. Make a data table and bar graph of the results showing “Where the news is happening”. Is there a pattern? Can you predict who will be featured in next week’s news?

DAY 80
Test word: survey(ed)
Where is it happening? – Two Day Activity – DAY TWO (MAD121, MAE123 – MAD131, MAE131, MAA431)
Make a list of all the countries mentioned in the newspaper in the next two days. If a country is mentioned twice, three times, etc., make a note of it. Make a data table and bar graph of the results showing “Where the news is happening”. Is there a pattern? Can you predict who will be featured in next week’s news?

DAY 81
Test word: perform
Beginning Digraphs & Blends (LAA122) (Grades 1-5)
According to the needs of your students, have them locate beginning phonic sounds (ph, str, thr, scr, sh, ch, fl, etc. ) in a news article. You may want to set students up in teams or pairs. Teams get points for finding them correctly and sounding them out. You also can assign an unusual sound and challenge all teams to find one!

DAY 82
Test word: 360º rotation
Degree Turn Around
Find a photo you like in today’s newspaper. How many degrees do you have to turn it so it is upside down? Rotate it around so it is right-side up again? Where would your picture be if you rotated it 45 degrees to the right? Your neighbor or teacher can check your work.
DAY 83
Test words: increase/decrease
High vs. Low Tides (MAA122, MAA322 – MAA132, MAA332)
What is the time difference between high and low tide today in Warrington? In Milton? (Include
difference between AM & PM low tides).

DAY 84
Test phrase: in context
Context Clues (LAA122 - LAA132)
Have individuals or pairs read an article and locate at least 3 unknown vocabulary words. Before
reading, give students a mini-lesson on constructing meaning using context clues from the sentence
or sentences around the word. Students circle each vocab word with a different color and then
underline the clues for that word in the same color. Assign students to write the word and its meaning
with a magic marker on a piece of 8 1/2” X 11” paper, in big letters, and post it along with the news
article. Encourage students to use these words in their journal, expository, or creative writing
assignments. You don’t really learn them until you use them!

DAY 85
Test word: most accurate(ly)
Setting up House (MAA322,MAB421,MAB321-MAA332,MAB332)
You have a 1/4 a million dollars to spend. Look through the classified ads and pick your ideal house.
Note the price. You can’t live in an empty house, can you? Go furniture shopping! Using the
classifieds and other ads throughout the newspaper, make a list of what you need to fill each room in
your house. Include accessories like lamps, if you want. Will you spend more on the house or the
furniture? Explain your reasoning for your decisions.

DAY 86
Test phrase: set or create the mood
Match, Set, Game (LAA122 - LAA132)
Find an article that has a detailed description of a place or event. Draw a picture based on exactly
what is written in the news story. Make a game out of it. Cut out news stories and arrange them out
of order with the pictures. Have students try to match the pictures with the stories. Students can work
in teams. Make this a monthly event!

DAY 87
Test phrase: most likely
Average Temp for the Week (MAE122 – MAE132)
Using the five-day forecast, calculate the average temperature for the week. Can you also find the
mean, median, and mode?

DAY 88
Test word: essay
D.E.A.R. Share/Main Idea (LAA122, LAA224 – LAA132, LAA234)
As an alternative to reading books during DEAR time, have students read the newspaper. Encourage
students to then reread the article and underline any important facts or details. Give them a visual
organizer so they can write out the 5 W’s (Who, What, When, Where, Why – and How!) Then, have
students share their articles with the class, retelling briefly what the article is about (the main idea),
and why they chose that particular article. This activity encourages your students to be verbally
articulate!

DAY 89
Test word: length
Mini News (MAA122, MAB122 - MAA132, MAB132)
What would the newspaper measure (length & width) if it was 3/4 its actual size? What about 1/8 of
its size? By what fraction or percent would you have to reduce the size of the newspaper so a mouse
could hold it in its paws? Estimate.
DAY 90
Test word:  probability
Paper Jumble Probability  (MAE123 – MAE133)
A young child has separated all the pages in today’s newspaper and has spread them all over the floor.  What is the probability you'll pick up the front page so you can start putting it back together in order?

DAY 91
Test word:  rhyme
Rhyming Pairs (Phonograms) (LAA123)
Challenge students to find rhyming pairs of words in an article or section of the newspaper.  Instruct students to circle the words and keep track of the ones they find on a separate piece of paper, divided into columns.  How many kinds of rhymes can they find?  Use this rhyme bank later to create poetry!

DAY 92
Test word:  width
Inch by Inch  (MAB122, MAE121 – MAB231, MAE131)
The price that advertisers pay for ads is based on the size of the ad.  An ad that is two columns wide and five inches long is 10 column inches (2 X 5 = 10).  Divide the class into three teams.  Team A measures all the furniture ads, Team B the car ads, and Team C the clothing ads.  Team members need to cut out each ad and label its column inches in bold marker (Write:  3 columns X 8 inches = 24 column inches).  Teams should add up their column inches for all ads.  Graph the results for today’s newspaper, by topic.  Do it again with another day’s newspaper (For example, you may want to compare a Monday with a Friday paper) and see if the amount of ad space changes or stays about the same.  Figure out percent changes.

DAY 93
Test word:  equal
Extreme Temps – December  (MAE122 – MAE132)
Located at the bottom of U.S. Cities' temperature reports on the weather page, read the extreme high and low temperatures for today.  What is the difference between them?  What is the average of these two temperatures?  Does this average correlate with temperatures around the country?  Geography challenge:  Locate the extreme temp cities on the U.S. map.  How far apart are they?  Use the mileage key and a ruler to find out!

DAY 94
Test word:  percent(age)
Order them around!  (MAA132)  (Grades 6-8)
Scan the newspaper for numbers (look in ads first) represented as decimals, percents, and fractions.  Cut out the ones you find and put them in order from least to greatest (or greatest to least, depending upon your teacher’s preference).  Paste them in order on a piece of notebook/blank piece of paper.  Switch papers with someone and check each other’s work.

DAY 95
Test word:  overlap(ping)
Sun and Moon – December  (MAB122 – MAB132)
According to the times listed on the weather page, how many hours of daylight will there be tomorrow?  How may hours of darkness tonight?  How many hours of the day is the moon visible?  How many days until the next Full Moon?
DAY 96
Test phrase: writing strategy
What’s Ahead? (LAA121, LAB121 - LAA131, LAB131)
Cut out a variety of headlines (only!) from the newspaper. Have students pick a headline and work with a partner. Using the headlines, they predict the content and/or purpose of the article/editorial. Pairs can write a short summary of what they think the article is about. Great AM journal writing activity! Remind students to look up any words they do not know.

DAY 97
Test word: scientific notation
Exponentially Large
Find at least 5 numbers in today’s newspaper which are over 10,000. Write down the numbers you find, then convert them to a whole number or decimal times an exponent of 10 (scientific notation). For example: $3,575,000 = 3575 \times 10^3$ OR $11,750 = 11.75 \times 10^3$

DAY 98
Test word: event(s)
Sequencing - Predict the Plot (LAA221 - LAA231)
Read a news/feature article in today’s newspaper. Write out the events of the story in the order in which they happened, allowing space between each line. Cut apart each event on the paper into strips. Mix them up. Exchange strips with someone else. Using the article, put the strips in order (number them). Challenge: Without the article, try to put the events in order. Teachers: You may want to save all your students’ work – keep event strips and corresponding articles in envelopes for students to work on anytime!

DAY 99
Test word: combinations
Multiple Mania 4 (MAA521 - MAA531)
You’re on a search for multiples in today’s newspaper. Find multiples of the number 2! Look it up in the glossary at the back of your math book. Circle the multiples you find and share.

DAY 100
Test word: quotation
Divulge the Dialogue
Find an article in today’s local section which includes quotes/dialogue. Pick out them out and take note of who was speaking. Then, recreate the conversation that might have taken place between the reporter and the person/people being interviewed. Be sure to add correct punctuation, quotation marks in appropriate places, and add “speaker tags”, such as …the reporter questioned, asked Mr. White, replied Mr. White, etc.

DAY 101
Test word: proportional
Margins of Victory (MAE321 - MAE132)
Using the sports pages, take a look at the scores for one sport. For each region or division, what is the average margin of victory? What is the range of winning scores? Range of winning scores for all regions? What is the median score for margin of victory?

DAY 102
Test word: continuing
Sneaky Synonyms (LAA123 – LAA133)
Read an article that interests you in today’s newspaper. As you read, look for words in the story that have almost the same meaning. For example: ran & scurried, jumped & leaped, answered & replied, asked & queried, etc.
DAY 103
Test phrase: most appropriate
High & Low (MAA122, MAA322 – MAA132, MAA332)
Find the lowest and highest selling price for a house in your town. Also, apartment, business, etc. for additional work. What is the difference in the prices? (Grades 6-8) What is the percentage difference?

DAY 104
Test phrase: which factor has contributed most...
Headliners, Please (LAA221 – LAA231)
Find an article which interests you in today’s newspaper and read it carefully. As you read, think about the main idea of this article. If the article needed a new title, what would you call it? Read the article aloud to your class and share your inventive title.

DAY 105
Test words: flip/slide
Flip & Slide Shapes (MAC121, MAC222 – MAC131, MAC231)
After “Shape Up!” activity, have them draw a flip & slide of those shapes they found! Time them! Divide students into small groups – mix up all their newspaper shapes & drawn shapes and have teams match them all up (First team to accomplish task wins!)

DAY 106
Test phrase: create/build suspense
Keep it Simple (LAA221, LAB223 – LAA231, LAB233)
Read an article which draws your interest in today’s newspaper. Write ONE simple sentence which best describes what the story is about. You may want to use a descriptive word from the article. It can be a compound sentence, but not a run-on!

DAY 107
Test word: interior angle
UV (Ultra Violet) Rays (MAE122 – MAE132)
Look at the UV index numbers for 10 AM, Noon, 2 PM, and 4 PM today. What is the average UV index for today? Based on this number, what is the need for sun protection?

DAY 108
Test word: resolve
What are you trying to say? (LAA221 – LAA231)
Read an editorial from today’s newspaper. What conclusion does PNJ's Editorial Board want you to arrive at? What is the subject being discussed and what is their overall opinion on the matter? Discuss in class.

DAY 109
Test word: volume
Global Extremes – January (MAA122, MAA322, MAE122 – MAA132, MAA332, MAE132)
Check out the world cities listing of “Hi” and “Lo” temperatures today. What is the lowest temperature? The highest? Can you find a higher or lower temperature in any of the U.S. cities? Find the difference and average of the high & low temps.

DAY 110
Test phrase: set/create the mood
In a Nutshell (LAA221 – LAA231)
Read an article about a person’s efforts to do good in our community. What word best describes this person? Use specific information from the article to support your answer.
DAY 111  
Test word: ratio  
Stats a Fact? (MAE322 - MAE332) (3-Day Activity)  
Go on a scavenger hunt through the papers of the next three days. Look for articles/ads/letters featuring statistical data. From your study of the newspaper, what are some of the common uses or misuses of statistical data/analysis? Do you think the statistics are true or at least reasonable? See if you can verify any of the statistics by doing some research on the Internet. Report your findings to the class. Write a paragraph, noting specific examples from the newspaper.

DAY 112  
Test words: cause/effect  
Change for the Better (LAA221, LAB223 – LAA231, LAB233)  
Locate an article in today’s paper which tells about story about positive change in our community. What was changed? What are/will be the results of the change(s)? Who is responsible for these positive steps? Write a short summary to read aloud.

DAY 113  
Test phrase: hourly rate  
Multiple Mania 5 (MAA521 - MAA531)  
You’re on a search for multiples in today’s newspaper. Find multiples of the number 2! What is a multiple? Look it up in the glossary at the back of your math book (Shame on you!). Circle the multiples you find and share them with the class.

DAY 114  
Test word: diagram  
Set for Science (LAA221 – LAA231)  
Look in today’s technology section or elsewhere for science-related articles. Read the article carefully. The information in the article could be best used for a student research project about ________________________(finish the sentence!)

DAY 115  
Test word: diagonal  
National Forecast – Map Reading – winter II (LAA122 – LAA132)  
Using the color-coded temperature range chart located above the U.S. map, which area/state/city shows temperatures in the 80’s? 60’s? 30’s? 10’s? Below zero?

DAY 116  
Test phrase: author’s and/or character’s attitude  
Organized Reporter (LAB226 – LAB233)  
Choose an article written by a PNJ employee in today’s local or life sections. How does the writer organize the first two paragraphs of the story? Was the Who, What, When, Where, and Why revealed? Explain what you think and use specific examples from the text (copy).

DAY 117  
Test word: reasoning/reasonable  
Stepping Out : ) (MAA323, MAA421, MAE121 – MAA431, MAE131, MAE331)  
Plan a great day with your friends. Look for events, movies, classes, etc. in today’s newspaper that you want you and your friends to attend. Make a guest list. Estimate how much it would cost to go to all the events and how much time it would take to do them all, including driving time, picking up your friends…don’t forget to plan a meal during the day! Search the newspaper for a good place to eat and estimate the cost for everyone. How much will it cost per person for this awesome day out? (Don’t forget to estimate cost for gas!) Create a table for your data. (Grades 6-8): Make a pie chart showing what percentage each activity/item represents of the total cost of your outing. Teachers: Before doing this entire activity, have students predict which activities/items will occupy the biggest pieces of the pie!
DAY 118
Test word: slope (math)
Summary Showdown (LAA221, LAB226 – LAA231, LAB233)
Every student in the class should read the same article. Your class can vote on it. Students have 15 minutes on the timer to read the article and write a one paragraph summary of the story. Everyone reads their summary. Students give “thumbs up” or “try again” (sideways thumb) or “thumbs down” for each one (voting can be done with heads down on the desks). Those who receive “try again” may make small corrections to improve theirs for the final showdown with all those who received a thumbs-up. Students and teacher work together to judge the summaries and declare a winner. It would be a good idea to go over the winning summary on the overhead the next day and talk about why it is a good summary.

DAY 119
Test word: circumference
Today’s Temps (MAA322, MAE122 – MAA332, MAE132)
What is the difference between the median temperature in Florida cities today and the mode temperature today for these Sunshine State cities?

DAY 120
Test phrase: improper fraction
Order them around! (MAA122) (Grades 3-5)
Scan the newspaper for numbers (look in ads first) represented as whole numbers (can include easy fractions & percents, too). Cut out the ones you find and put them in order from least to greatest or greatest to least; paste them in order on a piece of scrap paper. Switch papers with someone and check each other’s work.

DAY 121
Test word: radius
Home Sweet Home (LAA221, LAB226, LAD121 – LAA231, LAB233, LAD131)
Read an article from the life & home section (Teachers: Print it out from Sunday’s paper online) about a local house. Which feature of the house does the reporter emphasize most in the article? Support your answer with evidence from the article. As you read, make a list of adjectives used to describe rooms, furniture, ambience, colors, yard, etc. Then, write a paragraph to describe your room at home (or your dream room!). Try to use some of the adjectives you found in the article!

DAY 122
Test word: vertices
Multiple Mania 7 (MAA521 - MAA531)
You’re on a search for multiples in today’s newspaper. Find multiples of the number 2! What is a multiple? Look it up in the glossary at the back of your math book (Shame on you!). Circle the multiples you find and share them with the class.

DAY 123
Test word: base (math)
Sun and Moon – February (MAB122 – MAB132)
According to the times listed on the weather page, how many hours of daylight will there be tomorrow? How may hours of darkness tonight? How many hours of the day is the moon visible? How many days until the next Full Moon?

DAY 124
Test words: cone/conical
Prime Time (MAA521 - MAA531)
You’re on a search for prime numbers in today’s newspaper. Up to what number can you find? Look up the definition for a prime number in the glossary of your math book if you can’t remember what they are (Shame on you!).
DAY 125  
Test word: shift (math)  
Ending Digraphs & Blends (LAA122) (Grades 1-5)  
According to the needs of your students, have them locate ending phonic sounds (-ing, -ft, -lm, -mp, -sp, -tion, -ies, -ent, -ment, etc.) or plural endings in a news article. You may want to set students up in teams to look for plural endings/other ending sounds. Teams get points for finding them correctly and sounding them out. You also can assign an unusual sound and challenge all teams to find one!

DAY 126  
Test phrase: at random (math)  
Sunny Florida – winter (MAE122 – MAE132)  
Find the average, mean, and median temperatures for Florida cities for today in the Travelers’ Forecast (Weather page). For an extended project, do this activity in the summer, fall, winter, and spring. Save your results for graphing in the spring!

DAY 127  
Test word: reflected (over the axis)  
Multiple Mania 8 (MAA521 - MAA531)  
You're on a search for multiples in today’s newspaper. Find multiples of the number 2! What is a multiple? Look it up in the glossary at the back of your math book (Shame on you!). Circle the multiples you find and share them with the class.

DAY 128  
Test word: equality  
National Forecast – Map Reading – winter (LAA122 – LAA132)  
In which areas of the country do you find a forecast for showers? Thunderstorms? Rain? Flurries? Snow? Ice? Use the map symbol key. Refer to: NE, SE, NW, SW, and Midwest.

DAY 129  
Test word: factor  
Factor Fun (MAA521 - MAA531)  
You’re on a search for factors in today’s newspaper. Look for factors of 12, 18, 20, 24, 25, 28, 32, 36, 40, 42, and 48. Create factor trees or other visual representations to show the patterns / cut out numbers from the newspaper and glue them onto your paper. What numbers listed above have factors in common. Explain what you found out! Exchange papers with someone else to compare and correct work. Share your ideas with the class.

DAY 130  
Test word: cube/cubic  
River Stages: Drought or Flood? – winter (MAA322 – MAA332)  
Pick one or two rivers on the list included in the weather page. Alabama River, Escambia River, Choctawatchee River, Apalachicola River, Pascagoula River, or the Tombigbee River. What is the difference between the actual reading and the flood height? From these readings, can you tell if any of these rivers are near drought or flood stages? Discuss your results. Compare river stages during different seasons.

DAY 131  
Test word: multiple  
Multiple Mania 6 (MAA521 - MAA531)  
You’re on a search for multiples in today’s newspaper. Find multiples of the number 2! What is a multiple? Look it up in the glossary at the back of your math book (Shame on you!). Circle the multiples you find and share them with the class.
DAY 132
Test word: ordered pair
Newspaper Coordinate Graph (MAC322 – MAC332) – Clipping Clues:
1. Waistline (___, ___)  11. puzzle answers (___, ___)
2. Slam dunk (___, ___)  12. pied piper (___, ___)
3. Tempus fugit (___, ___)  13. like a good neighbor (___, ___)
4. Pick a flick (___, ___)  14. stormy weather (___, ___)
5. What’s up, Doc? (___, ___)  15. community college (___, ___)
6. Rapper Roy (___, ___)  16. comic caveman (___, ___)
7. Jumble stumble (___, ___)  17. US shadow (___, ___)
8. You’ve got a call (___, ___)  18. dapper donkey (___, ___)
9. Duct cleaner (___, ___)  19. rom rainbow (___, ___)
10. Hot bed (___, ___)

(See worksheet grid attached. Answers on next page.)

Answers (Newspaper Coordinate Graph):
1. (1, -1)  11. (1,3)
2. (-4, 2)  12. (1, -4)
3. (4, -2)  13. (-1, 2)
4. (4, -4)  14. (-3, 2)
5. (3, 1)  15. (-2, -2)
6. (2, -2)  16. (4, 2)
7. (-2, 4)  17. (3, 3)
8. (-3, -2)  18. (-4, 4)
9. (-4, -1)  19. (-4, -4)
10. (-2, -3)

DAY 133
Test phrase: most appropriate
Extreme Temps – February (MAA122, MAA322, MAE122 – MAA132, MAA332, MAE132) Located at the bottom of U.S. Cities’ temperature reports on the weather page, read the extreme high and low temperatures for today. What is the difference between them? What is the average of these two temperatures? Does this average correlate with temperatures around the country?
Geography challenge: Locate the extreme temp cities on the U.S. map. How far apart are they? Use the mileage key and a ruler to find out!

DAY 134
Test word: times as many
Car Deal? (MAA333, MAD131) (Grades 6-8)
Cars are offered at many different prices, and different car dealers offer varying interest rates. A cheaper car can actually end up being more expensive if the interest rate is high. Look through the car ads for automobiles for sale. Compare several different cars from different dealers. Who’s got the best deal? Why? Look through the classifieds for cars that are being sold by private owners. The current bank interest rate is 7.5%. Can you get a better deal from them? Create a table and compare your data.
DAY 135
Test word: graph/grid
Play by Play (LAA225, LAB223 - LAB131, LAB233)
Read an article about a sporting event in today’s sports section. Pretend you are the sportscaster for this event. Write an “ad lib” of what you might say during the course of this game. Be sure to use quotation marks and punctuation appropriately. Include a second commentator for a challenge!

DAY 136
Test word: diameter
Measuring Estimate II (MAB121, MAA421 – MAB231, MAB232)
Find the longest word in the local section of today’s newspaper. Measure how long it is (in inches & centimeters). How many letters does it have? Does that make a difference? For older students, have them measure it in inches and convert it to metric centimeters.

DAY 137
Test word: conflict
Main Idea (LAA221 – LAA231)
Teach your students, using the newspaper, that the main idea of an article or reading passage is usually evident in the first or second paragraph. The last paragraph or two will usually wrap it up. Give your students article clippings without their headlines.

Teachers: Keep the headlines and spread them out on a table for students to match up with their articles after they’ve finished their work. Have them determine the main idea in pairs, then have them work up to doing it individually. Pair students who struggle with finding the main idea with a stronger partner. Their peer tutor will model a pattern of success.

DAY 138
Test words: 180º rotation
Multiple Mania 9 (MAA521 - MAA531)
You’re on a search for multiples in today’s newspaper. Find multiples of the number 2! What is a multiple? Look it up in the glossary at the back of your math book (Shame on you!). Circle the multiples you find and share them with the class.

DAY 139
Test phrase: point of view
Consider the Source (LAA221, LAB226 – LAA231, LAB233)
Find an article, by skimming & scanning, that required the reporter to interview several different people and/or companies. What sources did the reporter use to write this article? Keep a running list of people, companies, agencies, etc. as you read the article. Next to each one, write a simple sentence explaining why that source was needed in the article.

DAY 140
Test word: coordinates
Plotting Papers (MAC322 - MAC332)
Using the coordinate graph grid, paste clippings from the newspaper into each grid block (See example grid). Create creative clues for each clipping and plot its coordinates for your answer sheet (See example answer sheet). Partners exchange their clipping clues, and plot the coordinates on the grid. Partners should check each other’s work when they’re done.

DAY 141
Test word: evidence (in text)
Elementary Evidence (LAA122 – LAA132)
Read an article you choose or assigned to your by your teacher. What kind of evidence does the author/reporter use most in the article: Scientific facts? Personal experience? Opinions? Statements from experts? Relies on the reader’s common knowledge of the subject? Other kinds of evidence?
DAY 142
Test words: cylinder/cylindrical
Closet Fill (MAA322, MAA421, MAB321 – MAA332, MAB331)
You have $500 to spend on school clothes this fall. Look through the department store ads for shoes, clothes, and accessories. Compare prices. Don’t forget to check out the “cheap stuff” ads in the classified section! Keep track of what you spend by cutting out the ads and keeping a running total of what you spend. How much money will you have left? Make sure you have at least 50¢ left to make a phone call from the mall for a ride home (or for bus fare)!

DAY 143
Test word: statement
Agree or Disagree? (LAA221, LAB223 - LAA231, LAB233)
As you read an editorial, take note of important points and opinions about the issue being written about. From your reading, create a list of statements that PNJ’s Editorial Board would agree with – then a list of statements on which they would disagree. Stick to the issue at hand.

DAY 144
Test word: 90° rotation
Paper Perimeter (MAB131, MAB133, MAB231)
Try to find the article in the newspaper which takes up the most space (biggest “hole” – called by news staff). Measure the perimeter of the article with your ruler (record perimeter in inches & in centimeters). Who in the class has the article with the greatest perimeter? Count headlines & pictures which go with the story.

DAY 145
Test word: positive
Noteworthy Eats (LAA221, MAE122 – LAA231, MAE132)
Read a restaurant review in today’s newspaper. From the reviewer’s point of view, why are the most noteworthy menu items or other positive aspects of the dining experience in this restaurant? What is the average price of an entrée/main dish?

DAY 146
Test word: angle
Angle Academy (MAB132) (Grades 6-8)
There are a multitude of 90° degree angles in the newspaper. The trick is, can you find other angles formed by ads/pictures and measure them accurately? Here’s the challenge: Find & measure at least 4 non-right angles (can be acute or obtuse) which add up to exactly ____°. Label each angle and cut and paste it onto paper.

DAY 147
Test word: author’s attitude
Editorial Ennui or Explosion? (LAA222 – LAA232)
As you read an editorial from today’s newspaper, what are the authors’ attitudes towards the subject matter?

DAY 148
Test word: difference
Global Extremes – March (MAA122, MAA322, MAE122 – MAA132, MAA332, MAE132)
Check out the world cities listing of “Hi” and “Lo” temperatures today. What is the lowest temperature? The highest? Can you find a higher or lower temperature in any of the U.S. cities? Find the difference and average of the high & low temps.
DAY 149
Test words: summary/summarize
School Success – Monday (LAA221, LAB223 – LAA231, LAB233)
Find an article in the local or main news section about a school in the community. What is the key to their success? Give a short summary of the article and emphasize the how & why of their achievement(s).

DAY 150
Test words: figures/shapes
Paper Area (Paper Perimeter, Part II) (MAB131, MAB133, MAB231)
What about area? Create a 1/2" or 1" grid inside the perimeter lines which surround your article & pictures. Is the same person who won for perimeter still the winner? What do you predict?

DAY 151
Test words: tessellated pattern
Tessellation News (MAC232) (Grades 6-8)
Can you create a tessellation with the newspaper? Cut out shapes & photos to create your tessellation. Explain your pattern in words.

DAY 152
Test word: times as many
Multiple Mania 10 (MAA521 - MAA531)
You’re on a search for multiples in today’s newspaper. Find multiples of the number 2! What is a multiple? Look it up in the glossary at the back of your math book. Circle the multiples you find and share them with the class.

DAY 153
Test word: route
Go the Distance (MAB132, MAE131, MAE132) (Grades 6-8)
Ever want to go to all the best warm places? First, circle all the places in the world (looking at the weather page) which have a temperature over 70 degrees Fahrenheit. You will have to average the high & low temperatures to find out! Then, make a table from your list of data. What is the range of temperatures? What is the average? If you were to travel to all these places from Pensacola, how many miles would you travel? Plan out your route on a world map (paper copy) & estimate the numbers of miles you would travel (air/direct route) to get to all these exotic places!

DAY 154
Test word: calculate
Average Chance of Rain – March (MAE122 – MAE132)
What is the average chance of rain this week? Use the information in the five-day forecast to calculate your answer.

DAY 155
Test word: emotion
Name that Feeling (LAA221 – LAA231)
Read a story about a local person. What word best describes this article. How does it make you feel? Name that feeling! Explain why in a few short sentences.

DAY 156
Test word: symbol(s)
National Forecast – Map Reading – spring (LAA122 – LAA132)
In which areas of the country do you find a forecast for showers? Thunderstorms? Rain? Flurries? Snow? Ice? Use the map symbol key. Refer to the following areas: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Northwest, and Southwest.
DAY 157
Test phrase: writing strategy
Writing Strategy (LAA222, LAB223 – LAA232, LAB233)
Read an article on the front page of one of the sections in today’s newspaper. What writing strategies does the reporter use to bring the story alive and hook in the reader? Use of descriptive language, unique approach to the subject matter, element of surprise, reader’s prior knowledge? Describe the strategy used in the first paragraph or two in a short paragraph. Use specific examples from the article to support your statements.

DAY 158
Test word: few/many
Multiple Mania 11 (MAA521 - MAA531)
You’re on a search for multiples in today’s newspaper. Find multiples of the number 2! What is a multiple? Look it up in the glossary at the back of your math book (Shame on you!). Circle the multiples you find and share them with the class.

DAY 159
Test phrase: support your answer
Movie Review (LAA221, LAB223 – LAA231, LAB233)
Read a movie review in today’s newspaper. In one sentence (in your own words), describe the reviewer’s overall opinion of the movie. The reviewer believes it is basically a good movie because…a bad movie because…a mediocre movie because…
Also, name the setting, characters, and any interesting elements in the film.

DAY 160
Test word: range
National Forecast – Map Reading – spring II (LAA122 – LAA132)
Using the color-coded temperature range chart located above the U.S. map, which area/state/city shows temperatures in the 100’s? 80’s? 60’s? 40’s? Below 40?

DAY 161
Test word: underline
Long Vowel “U” /Digraphs (LAA122 & following directions) (Grades 1-5)
Students locate the long “U” sound in words (u"consonant"e or “oo”) in the newspaper. Assign an article or specific page. Divide class into pairs. Using a timer, give them 5 minutes to search. One team member is responsible for circling the words, another writes down the words found, underlining the vowel digraph. Teams can also record their words in columns (“u” and “oo”) Teams get a point for each one found and recorded correctly.

DAY 162
Test phrase: how far apart
Extreme Temps – April (MAA122, MAA322, MAE122 – MAA132, MAA332, MAE132) Located at the bottom of U.S. Cities’ temperature reports on the weather page, read the extreme high and low temperatures for today. What is the difference between them? What is the average of these two temperatures? Does this average correlate with temperatures around the country?
Geography challenge: Locate the extreme temp cities on the U.S. map. How far apart are they? Use the mileage key and a ruler to find out!

DAY 163
Test word: caption
Create a Caption (LAC221 – LAC231)
Cut out interesting photos from today’s newspaper. Students can work in pairs or independently. Students take a minute or two to examine the photo and write an appropriate caption (“cutline” in newspaper talk!). Share them with the class.
DAY 164
Test word: day/night
Sun and Moon – April (MAB122 – MAB132)
According to the times listed on the weather page, how many hours of daylight will there be tomorrow? How many hours of darkness tonight? How many hours of the day is the moon visible? How many days until the next Full Moon?

DAY 165
Test word: article
Take the Teaser and Run (LAA221, LAB226 – LAA231, LAB233)
Photos, a short headline, and a short sentence or phrase promoting an article inside the newspaper are called “Teasers”. Using several newspaper sections and perhaps a few newspaper days, have students create a short article from the teasers. Then, students can compare their predicted content with the actual article inside.

DAY 166
Test word: reading (scientific/math)
River Stages: Drought or Flood? – spring (MAA322 – MAA332)
Pick one or two rivers on the list included in the weather page. Alabama River, Escambia River, Choctawatchee River, Apalachicola River, Pascagoula River, or the Tombigbee River. What is the difference between the actual reading and the flood height? From these readings, can you tell if any of these rivers are near drought or flood stages? Discuss your results. Compare river stages during different seasons.

DAY 167
Test word: headline
News Vocabulary (LAA122, LAD122 – LAA132, LAD133)
Have your students find and label the following in the pages of today’s newspaper:

Weather Capsule: A summary of the temperature and weather conditions that are forecast for the day.
Teasers: Words and photos that promote articles inside the newspaper.
Flag: Name of the newspaper
Headline (Hed): Words above an article, printed in large type, that summarize it for readers.
Folio: Information under the flag that often includes the newspaper’s date, price, volume and issue, edition and Internet address.
Photo Credit: Name of the person who took the photograph or the agency that supplied it.
Rule: A thin, vertical or horizontal line often used to box or separate stories.
Pull-Out Quote: A way of highlighting a special quote in an article. Used to break up type on a page.
Byline: Name of the writer of the article.
Subhead: Smaller headline under a larger headline, that leads into story.
Lead Story: Main news story of the day, which usually has the biggest headline.
Cutline: Words that explain a graphic or photo (caption).
Dateline: Name of a place where a news event happened or where the reporter was when writing the article.
Lede (or Lead): Opening paragraph(s) of a story.
Index: Table of Contents listed by topics and page numbers.
Wire Service: News-gathering agencies that distribute stories, photos, and graphics to newspapers. The nation’s largest wire service is The Associated Press (AP).
Mug Shot/Head Shot: A close-up photo of someone’s face.
Color Register Line: Device used by newspapers to make sure colors align properly on the page (Located at the very bottom of the page).
Jumpline: Type that tells the reader where the story continues.
DAY 168
Test word: multiply
Multiple Mania 12 (MAA521 - MAA531)
You’re on a search for multiples in today’s newspaper. Find multiples of the number 2! What is a multiple? Look it up in the glossary at the back of your math book (Shame on you!). Circle the multiples you find and share them with the class.

DAY 169
Test word: sequence
How-To, How? (LAA221 – LAA231)
Clip “How-to” articles from the newspaper. Copy down the steps on a piece of notebook paper and cut them into strips. Mix them up and give them to a neighbor. You get your neighbor’s mixed up step strips. Read each strip carefully and put them in the correct order. Students check each other’s work; comparing their order to the order in the How-to article.

DAY 170
Test phrase: mixed number
Paper Race for Numbers (MAA122 – MAA132)
Test phrases: greater or more than/less than or fewer than
Race through the newspaper. You have 5 minutes! See how many numbers you can find which are greater than 1 and less than 26. Circle each number as you find it. Compare your findings with your classmates. Do a race for fractions & decimals, too! For older students (grades 4-8), use larger numbers or have them look for equivalents of fractions, decimals & percents.

DAY 171
Test word: subject
Subject Find (LAA221, LAA225 – LAA231, LAA235)
Scan the newspaper and look for articles that is about each of the following: schools, local government, gardening, food/recipes, a disaster, a good cause, and a music event. Make a list of their headlines and the section & page number where they are located. Share your findings with your class.

DAY 172
Test word: quantity
Quantity Query (MAA123 – MAA133)
Find words in the newspaper that relate to quantity: more than, less than, a pile of, all, none, fewer, etc. Circle each word or phrase as you find them. Share with class.

DAY 173
Test word: comparison
City vs. Country (LAA221, LAA225 – LAA231, LAA235)
Divide a piece of paper in half. Label one side “city”, the other “country”. Make a list of the headlines for all city/town news and also for news around the country. Discuss in class what is going on today locally and nationally.

DAY 174
Test word: system of equations
Digit Dance (MAA122, MAA322 – MAA132, MAA332)
Find two 1-digit, 2-digit, or 3-digit numbers, depending upon the level of your students. Students do the following:
Teachers: Write these on the board; students must know the meaning of these math vocabulary words!

1. Find the product of the two numbers.
2. Find the sum of the two numbers.
3. Find the difference between the two numbers.
4. Find the quotient of the two numbers to the nearest hundredth.
5. Now, find the sum of all the answers above. Who has the highest sum in class?

DAY 175
Test word: pitch (degrees)
Job Check (LAA122, LAA124 – LAA132, LAA134)
Scan the job ads in the Classified section and X out any jobs requiring a college education or technical/professional training. What’s left? Discuss your findings.

DAY 176
Test word: distance
Tempus Fugit (MAB421 – MAB431)
Read a page or section of the newspaper and underline all the words that refer to units of time, such as: hourly, weekly, biannual, 30-day, next week, tomorrow, yesterday, etc.

DAY 177
Test word: topic
Circle of Problems (LAA225, LAA226 – LAA235, LAA236)
Read articles in the newspaper which focus on problems in your community. They can be social, economic, environmental, educational, etc. Pick one topic or combine a few to create a poster illustrating the problems in your community. Make sure your words and illustrations communicate a clear message about the problems. Stick to the facts. Filter personal opinions out!

DAY 178
Test word: formula
Word Problem (MAA322 – MAA332)
Using an advertisement (food, clothing, furniture, car, etc.), write a word problem. Be sure to solve it yourself and have the correct answer ready. Exchange word problems with your classmates and solve. Check each other’s work.

DAY 179
Test word: antonym/opposite
Antonym Antics (LAA123 - LAD232)
Find a short article or editorial that interests you. Rewrite it, using antonyms or opposites to replace any words you can. When you’re finished, is the article telling the opposite of what it originally did?

DAY 180
Test phrase: surface area
Marine Forecast (MAA322, MAA421 – MAA331, MAA332)
To convert knots to miles per hour, add 15% to number of knots to get m.p.h. Using the information in today’s Marine Forecast, how hard is the wind blowing today (in m.p.h.)? What is the relationship between wind speed and sea height? Compare these figures over the next few days. Save this activity for hurricane season!