

THE DAY

Build a better world

How to use

How can The Day help?

The Day is an independent, online news publication for use in schools, focussing on the big global issues beneath the headlines. Its dedicated newsroom produces articles, features, polls, quizzes, translations and activities that bring the wider world into the classroom.

Awareness of global issues: Internationally-focussed topical stories bring current affairs to the classroom.

Literacy: Non-fiction reading builds students' vocabulary and writing skills.

Oracy and debate: Students are encouraged to formulate their own questions and debate the issues at the heart of the story.

Critical thinking: Ready-made activities inspire inquiry-led learning to help every child think for themselves.

Reading levels

Reading levels are based on seven popular readability formulas: Flesch Reading Ease formula; Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level; Fog Scale; SMOG Index; Coleman-Liau Index; Automated Readability Index; Linsear Write Formula

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Simple daily stories <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 300 words• Level 4 readability• 2 dive in deeper links• Extra key words	Simple daily stories <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 400 words• Level 5 readability• 3 dive in deeper links	Daily stories <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 600 words• Level 7 readability• 4 dive in deeper links	Daily stories <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 700 words• Level 8 readability• 6 dive in deeper links• Extra key words	Daily stories <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 800 words• Level 8+ readability• 6 dive in deeper links• 5 become an expert links with stories, videos and podcasts for further reading

Daily news stories

- 2-3 new items every weekday
- Search by keyword or browse curriculum pages
- Subject areas are categorised by tags
- Use in subject lessons, form time, whole-school assemblies or for independent study

Subject area → **Geography**

Tags / subcategories → **SOCIETY**

Articles → **Scientists make fresh water out of thin air**

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'THE DAY NEWS TO OPEN MINDS'. The header includes a navigation bar with categories: ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE, SOCIETY, and SCIENCE, along with a 'List by curriculum' dropdown and a search bar. A banner at the top right says 'Welcome to our new website' with a note about a September 6th launch. Below the navigation bar, there's a date filter '01.09.21', a reading level selector (1-5), and a language toggle (UK/International). The main content area displays a list of news stories. The first story is 'Terror as brutal Taliban strikes for power' under the 'SOCIETY' tag. The second story, 'Scientists make fresh water out of thin air', is highlighted with an orange box and is under the 'SCIENCE' tag. The third story is 'Climate disasters spark apocalypse fears' under the 'ENVIRONMENT' tag. The fourth story is 'China missiles raise fears of World War Three' under the 'SOCIETY' tag. On the right side of each story, there are icons for a lock and a monitor.

Article format

Headline and image

What does this headline suggest?

What is happening in this image?

Introduction with question

Coda with opposing points of view

Society
Published: Tuesday, 15 March 2022
Cite

America warns China: don't dare help Russia

Best friends: Putin and Xi Jinping said there were "no limits" to their alliance.

Some people say
"International politics, like all politics, is a struggle for power."
Hans J Morgenthau (1904 - 1980), German-American academic
"One nation's common sense is another nation's high blood pressure."
EB White (1899 - 1985), American writer
What do you think?

Dive in deeper
How people in China see Russia's invasion of Ukraine. [Read more](#) (12:39)
A closer look at China's position on the Ukraine crisis. [Read more](#) (9:30)
A quick guide to the growing row between the USA and China over military aid to Russia. [Read more](#) (7:00 words)
This article argues that China's neutrality policy is not working. [Read more](#) (107 words)
What is at stake for China in the invasion of Ukraine. [Read more](#) (1,320 words)
Chinese foreign policy expert Hu Wei argues that China must take up a pro-Ukrainian position or risk isolation. [Read more](#) (1,050 words)

Become an expert
An explanation of 'unipolar world' politics. [Come to the Study of International Relations](#) (44:28)
How Ukraine is posing a challenge to China. [Read more](#) (3:44:31)
This article argues that Putin's approach to Ukraine might not be so misguided. [Read more](#) (3,390 words)
How China's approach to Ukraine could backfire. [Read more](#) (1,000 words)
This article suggests that 'unipolar world' politics are not yet coming to an end. [Read more](#) (3,000 words)

Key words
2022 - Russian forces seized and then annexed Crimea, part of Ukrainian territory. They also entered eastern Ukraine and engaged Ukrainian soldiers there.
USSR - A federation made up of Russia and several surrounding states that existed from the Russian Revolution in 1917 until its collapse in 1991.
Unipolar world - A world order where there is only one superpower with no major rivals.
UN General Assembly - The main policy-making body of the UN comprising all member states.

Will Xi Jinping end the war?
You decide
Will Xi Jinping end the war?
Yes: 15.29% No: 84.71%
Vote

Subjects
Politics, Economics, Geography

Six steps to discovery
Connect
How do you feel about this story?
Have you ever been affected by war? How would your life change if your country went to war?
Wonder
What questions do you have?
For example: Should we always accept peace at any price? Is this the moment China really takes on its new role in managing global politics?
Investigate
What are the facts?
Much of the debate behind this story seems no options for example, people might disagree about the correct decision for world leaders to take. We can look at historical evidence to understand how great powers rise and fall. Thinking deeply about it requires a balance of both.
Construct
What is your point of view?
Imagine you are Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and you have received an invitation to attend peace talks in Beijing. You do not trust the Chinese state but you want to end the war. Do you accept?
Express
What do others believe?
Get in a group of four. One person should represent Ukraine, another Russia, another NATO and the last one China. Try to negotiate a settlement.
Reflect
What might happen next?
The year is 2025 and billions of people around the world have turned to watch President Xi Jinping's New Year address. Write a newspaper article explaining how China came to be the foremost power in the globe, starting with the invasion of Ukraine.

- Articles always follow the same format for ease of use
- Presentation View and Print View available
- Body of article can be broken down into three sections:
 1. What's happened? Introduces the facts and figures.
 2. Find out more. How has this happened and why is it important?
 3. Coda – comes under a separate subheading. Three paragraphs present opposing points of view.

The coda is the most important part of the article. It introduces students to different points of view and allows them the space to decide if they agree/disagree/if they're somewhere in between.

Article format (continued)

Articles are accompanied by suggested activities and discussion prompts. The Six Steps to Discovery are ideal for homework or form time. Teachers can use them for both writing and speaking activities. They are easily adaptable to individual work or team projects. Primary pupils may find the first activity most suitable. Secondary pupils should try both.

Statement for discussion

Links for further research / independent study. Vetted by The Day's journalists

Activities for in class or homework

Discussion points / questions

Glossary helps students understand complex vocabulary

Society
Published: Tuesday, 15 March 2022
Get

America warns China: don't dare help Russia

Best friends: Putin and Jinping said there were "no limits" to their alliance.

Reading Level: 5

Will Xi Jinping end the war? As Putin steps up his threats to NATO, the search for an end to all the horror is becoming desperate. Some believe there is a ray of hope from China.

Ever since Vladimir Putin sent over 200,000 troops thundering into Ukraine, there has been one question on everyone's lips. Why?

After all, Ukraine is a vast country with a hostile population. Russia surely cannot believe that it can occupy it forever.

Some believe it was a simple miscalculation on Putin's part. They suggest he assumed the Ukrainian military would crumble as it did in 2014. In his mind, the Ukrainian people were disillusioned with their government and would accept - even welcome - a Russian intervention.

Others think the Russian leader is no longer thinking rationally. They wonder whether he has gone insane. Some even suggest he has suffered a stroke.

But a third opinion is starting to emerge. Perhaps, say some, the Russian invasion of Ukraine was not an unforeseen error. Instead, it was a theme of the dice by a leader who can feel the winds of history changing.

Until 1991, Russia was one of the world's two great superpowers, rivaling the USA for military might and economic power. But since the collapse of the USSR, the USA has sat at the head of a **unipolar world**. Russia has been downgraded to the status of regional power.

But now the tectonic plates are shifting once again. The USA is not all powerful. It is withdrawing from the Middle East and Europe and shifting its gaze towards China.

Putin may have calculated that the age of unipolar world politics is over. And Russia is at risk of being swallowed up in the new rivalry between the USA and China.

Some think he has decided that Russia will only survive if it proves it is still a power to be reckoned with.

The gamble seems to have backfired. Now, Putin might be forced to turn to Chinese President Xi Jinping to save him. Yesterday it was revealed that Russia has asked China for military equipment to aid its invasion.

In turn, the USA has threatened that China will face "severe consequences" if it helps Russia evade sanctions.

The temptation for Xi is that by helping Putin, he could secure the loyalty of the giant on his northern border. Russia still has close economic ties with eastern Europe and central Asia, which could be valuable to China.

On the other hand, Russia is now a global pariah. Only four countries voted with Russia on a motion at the **UN General Assembly** demanding that the country withdraw its forces. North Korea, Eritrea, Syria and Belarus. All are Russian-aligned **regime states**. China does not want to risk global unpopularity by siding with this position.

The more appealing would be the idea of brokering a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine. Then, Xi can present himself as the grown-up in the room, the only statesman able to calm tensions between a hostile West and a defensive, insecure Russia.

If he succeeds, he could cement China's new place in the international order and deal a body blow to the USA's claim to be the world's moral leader.

Will Xi Jinping end the war?

Give peace a chance

Yes: The Chinese leadership is smart and pragmatic. It can see how much it would benefit China to end this conflict and restore global peace. Expect it to seize the opportunity.

No: China is not trusted as a neutral party in this conflict. And Putin still believes he can beat Ukraine. For as long as these things remain true, Xi Jinping will be unable to broker a deal.

Or... China may or may not be able to end the crisis in Ukraine, but for as long as the war in Russia are at loggerheads, it will be able to present itself as a champion of peace with steady support.

Some people say

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Hans J. Morgenthau (1904 - 1980), German-American academic

"One nation's constant enemy is another nation's high blood pressure."

EB White (1899 - 1985), American writer

What do you think?

Dive in deeper

How people in China see Russia's invasion of Ukraine. [Go to page 18](#)

A closer look at China's position on the Ukraine crisis. [Go to page 19](#)

A quick guide to the growing row between the USA and China over military aid to Russia. [Go to page 20](#)

This article argues that China's neutrality policy is not working. [Go to page 21](#)

What is at stake for China in the invasion of Ukraine? [Go to page 22](#)

Chinese foreign policy expert Hu Wei argues that China must take up a pro-Ukrainian position or risk isolation. [Go to page 23](#)

Become an expert

An explanation of unipolar world politics. [Go to page 24](#)

How Ukraine is posing a challenge to China. [Go to page 25](#)

This article argues that Putin's approach to Ukraine might not be as misguided as it seems. [Go to page 26](#)

How China's approach to Ukraine could backfire. [Go to page 27](#)

This article suggests that unipolar world politics are not yet coming to an end. [Go to page 28](#)

Key words

2014 - Russian forces seized and then annexed Crimea, part of Ukrainian territory. They also entered eastern Ukraine and engaged Ukrainian soldiers there.

UN General Assembly - A federation made up of Russia and several surrounding states that existed from the Russian Revolution in 1917 until its collapse in 1991.

Unipolar world - A world order where there is only one superpower with no major rivals.

UN General Assembly - The main policy-making body of the UN comprising all member states.

Eritrea - A country in the Horn of Africa that won its independence from Ethiopia in 1993. It has one of the worst human rights records in the world.

Present **Present**

You decide

Will Xi Jinping end the war?

Yes: 35.0% No: 64.7%

Vote

Subjects

Politics, Economics, Geography

Six steps to discovery

Connect

How do you feel about this story?

Have you ever been affected by war? How would your life change if your country went to war?

Wonder

What questions do you have?

For example: Should we always accept peace as our price? Is the economy China really takes on its new role in managing global politics?

Investigate

What are the facts?

Much of the debate behind this story rests on opinion; for example, people might disagree about the correct decisions for world leaders to take. We can look at historical evidence to understand how great powers rise and fall. Thinking deeply about it requires a balance of both.

Construct

What is your point of view?

Imagine you are Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and you have received an invitation to attend peace talks in Beijing. You do not trust the Chinese state but you want to end the war. Do you accept?

Express

What do others believe?

Get in a group of four. One person should represent Ukraine, another Russia, another NATO and the last one China. Try to negotiate a settlement.

Reflect

What might happen next?

The year is 2035 and billions of people around the world have tuned in to watch President Xi Jinping's New Year address. Write a newspaper article explaining how China came to be the foremost power on the globe, starting with the invasion of Ukraine.

Weekly features

Five weekly features, with a new feature updated every day.
Includes: Short Epic, Theme, Video of the Day, Connection, Quiz, Photo of the Week, Briefing, Special Report, Translations (Level 3-5), Cartoon (Level 1-2)

Short epics
True stories of everyday life



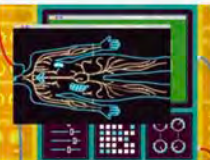
Royal mess

A politician invited to Buckingham Palace ate dog food by mistake. Visiting the Queen, Alan Johnson snacked on biscuits meant for her corgis.

[See all short epics...](#)

WEEKLY THEME
Play

[See all themes...](#)



VIDEO OF THE DAY
Is biohacking a good idea?

Weekly features



CONNECTION
Wuthering Heights



QUIZ
A week in 12 questions



PHOTO OF THE WEEK
Ripple effect

Special reports



SOCIETY
Hard questions



SOCIETY
War in Ukraine



SOCIETY
2022: The big debates foretold

Cartoons



CARTOON
The world's most expensive stone



CARTOON
The dog that saved hundreds of lives



CARTOON
The ants that can rebuild forests

Briefings



BRIEFING
Starlink



ENVIRONMENT
Plastic pollution



SOCIETY
Modern-day tanks

Translations



FRENCH
« Poutine est un homme en colère et frustré »



MANDARIN
六周过去了, 一个医学奇迹还在继续



ARABIC
العثور على حطام سفينة المبتكشف إرنست شاكلتون

Briefing

Infographic introduces topic

"What is happening in this image?"

Q&A teaches focused answers

Briefing
Published: Tuesday, 8 March 2022
Click

Starlink

World connected: How Starlink satellite internet works

Satellite view: It is nearly impossible for Russia to block Starlink.

Reading Level 5

Could technology help save Ukraine? As Russia disrupts communication systems, one maverick billionaire has stepped in to keep Ukraine connected to the outside world.

Q: What is Starlink?

Starlink is a satellite internet project run by billionaire Elon Musk's space company SpaceX. It uses satellites to provide internet access to places that are otherwise cut off from the outside world.

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Ukraine's deputy prime minister Mykhailo Fedorov personally appealed to Musk to provide Starlink internet to the country. Starlink is now being used in Ukraine amid fears that Russian forces may destroy Ukraine's existing communications infrastructure.

Q: How does it work?

Starlink internet works by beaming broadcast signals down to specialised receivers on Earth via a network of low-orbiting satellites.

Instead of relying on underground fibre-optic cables, Starlink users plug in a terminal on the roof of their building or in a place with clear access to the sky. The terminal then automatically connects to the nearest Starlink satellite.

Starlink's first prototype satellites, TriTina and TriTinB, were launched into orbit in 2018. Today, there are more than 2,000 Starlink satellites in the sky.

Q: Why is internet access so important in Ukraine?

The internet is vital for coordinating Ukraine's resistance movement. It connects ordinary people to their families inside and outside of Ukraine, journalists to international broadcasters and President Zelenskyy and his government to the outside world.

It is likely that most of Ukraine's Starlink terminals, which normally cost \$499 or \$499, will be used by government officials rather than ordinary Ukrainians. But even if only a select group of people can use the devices, "it's better than having a total absence of information," says one cyber-security expert.

Q: Where else is Starlink used?

Today, more than 100,000 Starlink terminals have been sold to customers in 14 countries. In December 2020, Starlink arrived in Pitangui, a remote indigenous community in Canada's northwest. It is only accessible by plane in the summer, so by driving over a frozen lake in the winter. Now, residents can access education, healthcare and business online.

In February, Starlink restored internet to villages in Togo after a telecoms corporation and tsunami destroyed a vital undersea cable.

Q: Is Starlink controversial?

Yet! Spaceflight safety experts worry that the low-orbiting satellites are a collision hazard, while astronomers fear the bright objects will interfere with observations of the night sky.

Meanwhile, nobody knows what effect the burning up of old satellites in Earth's atmosphere will have on the planet.

Q: What is next for Starlink?

More Starlink terminals are due to arrive in Ukraine this week. But in the long term, SpaceX hopes that Starlink sales will help to fund a base for humans on Mars. One day, they may even provide internet access to the red planet.

"I don't think the people who go to Mars are going to be thrilled with some terrible, old-fashioned radios," says SpaceX president Gwynne Shotwell. "They'll want their iPhones or Androids on Mars."

Key words

Outside world - Since areas may be unable to receive a traditional internet connection due to restrictions, difficult terrain or the effects of war.

Specialised receivers - The receivers are known as terminals or dishes, thanks to SpaceX's nickname for the antennas, Dishy McFlatface.

Roof - Musk has warned Ukrainians that Russian forces may seek to attack houses with Starlink terminals.

2,000 - Starlink aims to roll out 12,000 satellites.

Togo - An archipelago of islands and Polynesian kingdom in the South Pacific.

Burning up - The satellites are stored into Earth's atmosphere at the end of their lives, meaning that they do not become space debris. However, the effect of so much metal burning would alter the chemistry of the atmosphere.

Reading Level 5

Six steps to discovery

1 Connect

How do you feel about this story?

How often do you use the internet? How would your life change if your internet connection suddenly disappeared?

2 Wonder

What questions do you have?

For example: Why might Russia try to cut Ukraine's internet supply? Why does information matter so much during war? Will Starlink really work on Mars?

3 Investigate

What are the facts?

It is clear that the internet is a vital tool of communication and resistance in Ukraine. But this debate relies on the supposition that Russia may successfully disrupt internet services across widespread areas and that Starlink terminals can bring Ukrainians back online without making them obvious targets for patrolling troops.

4 Construct

What is your point of view?

Imagine you are in Ukraine and have the opportunity to set up a Starlink terminal. Would you go ahead despite the risk?

5 Express

What do others believe?

Should internet access be a human right? Hold a class debate on this question.

6 Reflect

What might happen next?

Imagine you are the first Starlink user on Mars. Write a blog post describing your experience for people still on Earth.

- Tackles the first questions students have about a recent news issue or ongoing story
- Includes a graphic, which serves as a starting point for discussions and numeracy skills for reading/interpreting graphs
- Fun, conversational style to easily introduce students to big concepts and ideas
- Just like the articles, briefings are accompanied by activities and discussion prompts designed to help teachers in the classroom

Special report

Heading and
brief introduction

Curated list of
relevant stories
and features

War in Ukraine

Reading Level: 5

On 24 February, Vladimir Putin declared war when he launched a "special operation" in Ukraine. The world has rallied. Western governments have sent arms and ordered sanctions. But the real impacts are yet to come: an enormous humanitarian crisis, millions of refugees, economic upheaval. This special report follows the conflict closely, describing what is at stake – and what could happen next.



SOCIETY

Time to hand Putin victory, say experts

Is this morally wrong?



SOCIETY

The woman who left the world in shock and awe

Is courage a form of madness?



SOCIETY

Saudi Arabia makes £2.7bn offer for Chelsea

Should sportswashing be illegal?



SCIENCE

Chernobyl disaster

Is a nuclear accident a bigger threat than nuclear war?



SOCIETY

America warns China: don't dare help Russia

Will Xi Jinping end the war?



SOCIETY

War refugees to be invited into spare rooms

Would you welcome a Ukrainian into your home?



CULTURE

Orchestra ridiculed for banning Tchaikovsky

Is this a betrayal of art?



SOCIETY

US warns Putin could use chemical weapons

Is it time for NATO to fight?



SOCIETY

'Putin is angry and frustrated right now'

Is Russia close to collapse?



SCIENCE

Rich countries 'watch while thousands die'


Is nuclear war really probable?



- A roundup of archive articles related to an ongoing topic
- An easy way for teachers to find extra resources related to important issues
- Examples include War in Ukraine, Inspiring lives, Young climate heroes, The Covid crisis

Theme

- Weekly theme covers important on-diary events
- Fits well with PSHE / Citizenship curriculum
- Choose which articles/activities to read or use throughout the entire week
- Download accompanying calendar for form tutors or display boards

Reading Level 5

14 – 20 March: Play

Key date: Holi Spring Festival | 19 March

What is the point of play? Why do we spend our time playing when there is work to be done and money to be made?

Play is not simply a distraction from the important business of school or work. Some people think the point is that it has no point. We are free to do what we want, to have fun with one another without any goal in mind.

Playing helps us to think about people as partners in pleasure, and not as competitors at school or in work.

The philosopher Friedrich Schiller said that we are most human when we play. When we play, we lose sight of everything but the present.

Play is important for creativity. It allows us to look at things in new ways. When playing with an object you invent a new use for it.

This Saturday 19 March is Holi, a spring festival originating in India, celebrating the love of the Gods Radha and Krishna. That love, many think, is also a symbol of the triumph of good over evil.

During the festival, people throw brightly coloured liquids and powders at one another, even at strangers. Everyone ends up smeared in dyes.

Rather than fight, they play. They make fun of fighting, and that is the true victory of good over evil.

How will you make time to be playful this Holi?

ASSEMBLY SLIDES

Activities

1. Where do you think creativity comes from? Write a list of things that help you feel more creative.
2. In groups of four, invent a new, simple game, like rock, paper, scissors, that you think also teaches a valuable moral lesson.
3. Write an argument for or against the claim that playing video games is worse for children than playing outdoors.

Image and outline of theme

Suggested activities

Assembly

- No planning or preparation required
- PowerPoint slides include photos, videos and discussion questions
- Ready made with accompanying teacher notes

Ready-made assembly PowerPoint



Downloadable teacher notes



Photo of the week / Video of the day

- Short visual activities where students are asked to consider a photo from the news or go into greater depth using an educational video
- Accompanying news story / activity suggestions

Photo and video prompt discussion



Ripple effect

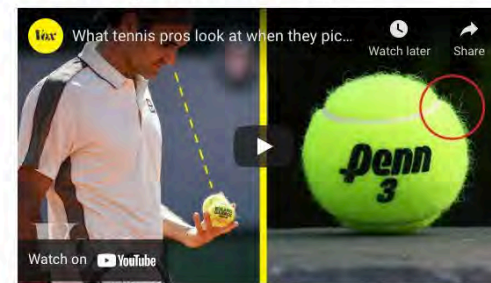
Reading Level: 5



Is this a shot taken from inside the halfpipe surf wave, an artwork made of glass or maybe the surface of a plastic bottle in UV light? Have a guess and discuss your ideas as a group!

More photos of the week

Is there a perfect tennis ball?



Reading Level: 5

There is one thing almost every tennis player does before serving: they choose a specific ball. Many believe it can help them win. But is this right? In this new film, scientists and coaches discuss the physics of the tennis ball.

Activities

1. Discuss popular superstitions with your partner. Make a list of them in two columns, one with habits and theories that could be based on truth, and one with ones that are seemingly meaningless.
2. Choose a successful sports person you admire from any point in history. Prepare a presentation on why you admire them, explaining what you think their greatest qualities are and why.

MORE VIDEOS OF THE DAY

Related Stories



SOCIETY
Sarah Storey smashes an incredible record



SOCIETY
Fury over pets v people after Operation Ark



SOCIETY
'The most barbaric lethal weapon ever invented'



CULTURE
Tech giants race to conquer virtual reality




SCIENCE
One hot dog can lose you 36 minutes of life

Discussion points and questions

Quiz & caption competition

Students can enter caption competition

Questions link to relevant news story



What's going on in this photo? Send us your captions, please!
[Click here to submit your captions and you could be this week's winner!](#)

Reading Level: **A week in 12 questions**
Print-friendly

1. Why was David Bennett famous? He was given a pig's heart He had a head transplant He had the world's longest legs Read the story	5. When is International Women's Day? 1 March 3 March 8 March Read the story	9. Who wrote The Crucible? Tennessee Williams Arthur Miller Tom Stoppard Read the story
2. How old is Sofia Khomenko? 9 12 17 Read the story	6. How much has Joe Biden pledged in military aid to Ukraine? \$350m \$500m \$600m \$800m Read the story	10. How many humpback whales exist on Earth? 10,000 80,000 1.2 million Read the story
3. Where is Snake Island? The Mediterranean Sea The Dead Sea The Black Sea Read the story	7. How did Victorians learn to swim? With floating sponges Copying frogs Wearing inflatable clothes Read the story	11. What language is the word: hyppyyrytytydyty? Swedish Swahili Finnish Read the story
4. When were the Salem witch trials? 1640s 1690s 1790s Read the story	8. What does gigil mean in Tagalog? The urge to squeeze someone Drinking a beer with friends A love of jokes Read the story	12. What kind of animal is Sanyika? A pig A goat A penguin Read the story

Last week's caption winner



"You're on the last straw!"
Abingdon School

- Friday quiz that rounds up all of the articles published on The Day that week. A fun comprehension activity.
- Questions link back to the article that contains the answer
- Accompanied by our weekly caption competition

Translations

English version

Toggle between English and translated version

Article is translated from simplified English version

Word watch and activities adapted for modern language lessons

Huit livres qui nous aident à comprendre la guerre



Reading Level: 5

La grande littérature est-elle un facteur de paix ? Si oui, à quel moment de l'histoire ?

Tout génie et se retourne dans son lit que fois de plus. Elle s'arrête pas à dormir. Le changement climatique et le Covid-19 étaient déjà assez graves, maintenant il fallait aussi s'inquiéter de la guerre entre la Russie et l'Ukraine. Pourquoi elle ne joue-t-elle pas une vie normale ?

Beaucoup d'autres ressentent la même chose. Mais il existe des moyens pour que nous ne soyons pas submergés par ces problèmes. L'un d'eux est d'avoir une meilleure perspective en lisant précisément des livres sur ces sujets plutôt que d'être bombardé par des bulletins d'actualité. En cette Journée mondiale du livre, voici huit livres qui vont au cœur du sujet de la guerre.

La bataille de Kiev : Le Grand livre de Mikhail Boulgakov est un roman classique sur la guerre d'indépendance ukrainienne de 1918.

Une invasion épique : Considéré comme l'un des meilleurs romans jamais écrits, *Guerre et Paix* de Léon Tolstoï se concentre sur l'invasion de la Russie par Napoléon en 1812.

Une résistance désespérée : La victoire de la Russie contre l'invasion des forces allemandes lors de la Bataille de Stalingrad est racontée avec éclat dans le roman de Vassili Grossman, *Vie et Destin*.

Le point de vue d'un volontaire : *Homage to Catalonia* de George Orwell est un témoignage personnel de la guerre civile espagnole qui dépeint brillamment la vie d'un soldat ordinaire.

Un homme et son destin : Une personne peut faire toute la différence lors d'une guerre. La pièce de Seamus Heaney, *The Cure at Troy*, raconte l'histoire de Philoctète, un archer grec.

L'expérience féminine : La guerre n'a pas un visage de ferme de Svetlana Aleksievitch raconte l'histoire fascinante de femmes russes qui se sont battues lors de la Seconde Guerre mondiale.

Le dilemme des réfugiés : L'incertitude terrible qu'apporte la guerre résonne dans le roman sur la Seconde Guerre mondiale d'Olivia Manning, *La Fortune des armes*.

Des illusions perdues : Deux romans sur la Première Guerre mondiale. À l'Ouest, rien de nouveau, Erich Maria Remarque suit un soldat allemand idéaliste lors de sa découverte des horreurs de la guerre.

La grande littérature est-elle un facteur de paix ?

Guerre et paix

Oui : Les guerres éclatent quand les gens oublient leur humanité et considèrent la guerre comme une expérience glorieuse. Les grands écrivains nous rappellent sa vraie nature et le besoin de composer avec autrui.

Non : Les gens qui font la guerre sont de nature agressive et les livres qui leur parlent sont ceux qui renforcent ces instincts. Seule la diplomatie soutenue par la force militaire peut apporter la paix.

Ou... La littérature nous donne des informations précieuses sur la psychologie humaine. Comprendre le point de vue de son ennemi est une partie vitale dans toute négociation de paix ; donc lire est certainement utile.

Glossaire

génie - genius

vivre - to live

submergé - overwhelmed

Journée mondiale du livre - World Book Day

au cœur - to the heart

la guerre - war

un roman - a novel

avec éclat - vividly

la pièce - the play

perdue - lost

suit - follows

oublient - forget

compatir - empathize

paix - peace

utile - helpful

English version



Six steps to discovery

1 Connect

Que pensez-vous de cette histoire ?

Quel est le dernier livre que vous avez lu ? Quelle lecture vous a permis de changer votre point de vue sur un sujet important ? Avez-vous déjà lu un livre sur la guerre ?

2 Wonder

Avez-vous des questions ?

Par exemple : Est-il possible d'écrire une œuvre sur la guerre sans être au front ? L'écriture peut-elle décrire réellement l'horreur de la guerre ?

3 Investigate

Que savons-nous et qu'ignorons-nous ?

Nous savons que les humains ont utilisé la littérature pour parler de la guerre - et essayer de la comprendre - depuis au moins 2000 ans. Ce que nous ne pouvons jamais mesurer est l'impact de ces livres sur les gens responsables des guerres.

4 Construct

Quelle est votre opinion ?

Vous êtes d'accord avec un ami. Choisissez un livre qui selon vous l'aiderait à mieux vous comprendre et écrivez une lettre expliquant pourquoi.

5 Express

Que pensent les autres ?

La plume est-elle plus forte que l'épée ? Débates en classe sur la question.

6 Reflect

Selon vous, que va-t-il se passer par la suite ?

Écrivez une histoire dans laquelle le président Poutine lit un livre qui lui fait réaliser sa terrible erreur.

- One article each week is translated to French, Spanish, German, Simplified Mandarin, Arabic

- Activities are adapted for language learners

Connections

Carol Ann Duffy



Reading Level: 5

Carol Ann Duffy is one of Britain's best loved poets. She uses simple language, and often writes in the form of a dramatic monologue to explore a huge range of characters – everyone from a serial killer to a Jewish woman in a concentration camp. Despite these dark themes, her work is also filled with humour, playfulness and parody. In 2009 she was made the UK's poet laureate, meaning she has been officially appointed to write poems for special occasions; these have included the banking crisis and David Beckham's achilles tendon injury, as well as more traditional events such as royal weddings. Duffy is the first woman, the first Scot and the first openly gay person to hold the position.

Language Women's roles Isolation Love Loss

"I like to use simple words, but in a complicated way," Duffy once said. The use of everyday language in poetry is a tradition stretching back to Wordsworth, and Duffy delights in using contemporary slang to express big ideas.



English under threat from verbal sandbagging

Is English being choked to death by jargon? A controversial list of weird terms has been removed from an NHS website, but some warn that the language of tomorrow will be utterly confusing.



How sexism is 'built-in' to most languages

Could many languages be holding women back? A growing movement argues that changes to grammar and vocabulary are an essential step towards ending the tradition of male dominance.



When buzzwords start to become fuzzwords

Does jargon stop us thinking clearly? Some people love using technical or fashionable language, but others complain that buzzwords simply clutter our minds and hamper communication.

Title and introduction

Five key themes within text

Theme links to topical news stories

- Best suited for English and library
- Links set texts with relevant current affairs stories
- Students learn how texts are relevant to modern world

Short epics



Royal mess

A politician invited to Buckingham Palace ate dog food by mistake. Visiting the Queen, Alan Johnson snacked on biscuits meant for her corgis.



Frosty

A teacher had a snowman posted to Florida for a lesson on weather. Lucky, 40cm tall with a carrot nose, arrived safely wrapped in foil.



Holy moly

In Birmingham, studies revealed secrets of a relic. The Turin Shroud wasn't used to cover Jesus - it is a tablecloth from Burton-on-Trent.



Roadie

In Essex, rock legend Rod Stewart has taken up road mending. The 77-year-old says he fills potholes on his street to protect his Ferrari.



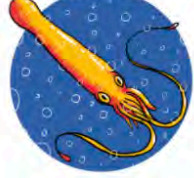
Exa, Y, zzz

SpaceX founder Elon Musk and musician Grimes have welcomed a second child. Exa Dark Siderael, born in December, is known as 'Y' for short.



On the waddle

Budapest police caught a fugitive missing for a week. Sanyika, a six-month-old Cape penguin, was waiting patiently at a pedestrian crossing.



Tentacles

Found in Montana: a fossil older than dinosaurs. Buried 330 million years ago, with ten limbs covered in suckers, the world's first octopus.



Royal mess



Reading Level: 5

A politician invited to Buckingham Palace ate dog food by mistake. Visiting the Queen, Alan Johnson snacked on biscuits meant for her corgis.

SHORT STORY EPIC

READ THE STORY

WRITE YOUR OWN SHORT EPIC

Short Epics are 140-character true news stories designed to make you smile. Light-hearted, accompanied by aa cartoon.

For an additional literacy or writing challenge: write your own short epic.

Cartoon (Level 1-2 only)

The world's most expensive stone

Reading Level: 2



[The-World-This-Week -South-Africa-KS1](#)

[Download the KS1 resource](#)

[The-World-This-Week -South-Africa-KS2](#)

[Download the KS2 resource](#)

Cartoons



The Day is proud to partner with Oddizzi to produce a catalogue of cartoons for use with KS1 and KS2 pupils. Slides include discussion prompts and activity suggestions to get pupils exploring a topic in the Geography curriculum.



Using The Day

- **Adaptable**

Five reading levels (suitable for ages five to 19) allow easy differentiation across different ages and abilities.

- **Empowering**

Discussion-based activities encourage students to debate key issues, listen to others and develop empathy.

- **Inspiring**

Build a community of engaged learners with topical stories that are relevant to students' lives.

- **Consistent**

New stories and features are published every weekday.

For help & support, email support@theday.co.uk