

1. How many pictures of happy people can you find in the newspaper? Cut them out and paste them on a sheet of paper and try to tell why you think these people are happy.
2. Count the number of pictures in this week's edition of the newspaper. Create a graph of the number of pictures in the newspaper each week for a month.
3. Look for numbers that are the same size and cut them from the newspaper. Use the numbers to create a clock face. Practice telling time using this clock.
4. Look through your newspaper to find the following shapes: squares, circles, rectangles, triangles, ovals and cylinders. Use a marker to trace the outline of each shape.
5. Pretend you were just given \$100 to purchase 10 things you find in the newspaper. Circle the 10 items in the newspaper and calculate the total price. Who can come the closest to spending \$100 without going over that amount?
6. Search the food ads in your newspaper and find something that is sold by the pound. How much would it cost if you bought three pounds? How much for just one-half pound?
7. Circle all the numbers on the first page of the sports section and find the total.
8. Find 10 even numbers in this week's newspaper. Find 10 odd numbers.
9. Look in the land for sale section of the classified ads. Determine the cost for an acre of land.
10. Use the newspaper advertisements to create your own word problems. Exchange your problem with another student and each of you solve the problem you have been given.
11. Give each student one page of the newspaper. Ask them to determine the amount of money needed to purchase everything in the ads on that page. Create a classroom total.
12. Search through the newspaper each week to find examples of different types of charts and graphs. Label what type of graph each represents. If there are no charts or graphs in this week's newspaper, use the information in a news story to create one.
13. Pretend you have been given \$50 to create a meal for five people. "Shop" for items in the food ads of the newspaper.
14. Find a recipe in the newspaper that sounds good to you. Determine what the recipe would be if you wanted only half the amount as in the original.
15. In the classified ads section, find a job that lists a salary amount. Compute the salary for the job for one week (40 hours), for one hour or for one year.
16. Each week for four weeks, measure in column inches (one column wide, one inch deep) the space used for local news, features, other stories, advertising and photos. Create a graph for each element for the four-week period.
17. Over a one month period, determine the number of column inches of space given to boy's/men's sports and the number of inches of space given to girl's/women's sports. Compare them and make a generalization about the coverage of the two types of sports.
18. Look for a display advertisement about a sale. What is the dollar amount of the discount being offered? What is the percentage discount being offered?
19. Select three display ads or pictures from the newspaper. What is the perimeter and area of each?
20. Cut out advertisements or pictures from the newspaper that show the use of math. For example: pairs of shoes are multiples of two.
21. Encourage your students to cut coupons from the newspaper. At the end of one month ask them for the total amount of money they could save if they used all the coupons.
22. Divide your class into teams. Give each team an imaginary \$500. Which team can purchase 10 items and come the closest to \$500 without going over. For advanced students, have them add sales tax to the items!
23. How many metric terms can your students find in this week's newspaper? List them all.
24. Make number cards to be shared with lower grades. On one half of the card paste a numeral. On the other half paste a picture with that number of items in it. Cut them in half. Let younger students try to match the numeral with the number of items.
25. Numbers in the newspaper can be written in many ways. Can your students find examples of a numeral, a number written as a word, a percentage, a decimal, a fraction, a Roman numeral, etc.
26. Examine the comic strips and ask your students to determine the fraction of the whole strip that each frame represents. Single frame comics would represent one. A strip with four frames would represent one-fourth. Be careful of strips that do not have equal sized frames.
27. Look for items in the advertisements that are sold in multiples. Have your students determine the unit price for each.
28. Weather highs and lows. Examine the weather forecast for your area. Create a graph for several weeks showing the high temperature predicted for each day.
29. Use won/lost records for local sports teams to create a graph.
30. Review the obituaries for a period of several weeks. Determine the average age of death for the people that were listed.