

Jennifer Dixon-Fitzner
Gulf High School, Pasco County
2025 Runner-Up

Jennifer teaches economics & law studies at Gulf High School in Pasco County.

She was chosen as a 2025 Runner-Up for using the Tampa Bay Times to create cross-curricular activities and lessons that appeal to a wide range of learning abilities and learning styles.

For example, on “Talk About It Tuesday,” students read two articles from the Tampa Bay Times together as a class, then briefly discuss each article. After reading and discussing the articles, students work independently or collaboratively to answer a series of analytical and critical thinking questions.

On “Worldly Wednesday,” students read an international story from the Times, locate the country on a world map, and conduct research about it. They then make connections back to what they are learning in economics or law studies.

Jennifer writes, “I serve a diverse population of students. Many students receive accommodations for Exceptional Student Education. Others receive English-language support pursuant to the English for Students of Other Languages program. Therefore, it is vitally important that I create activities and lessons that appeal to a wide range of learning abilities and learning styles. The Tampa Bay Times is an effective medium that allows me to differentiate and scaffold academic content. Cross-curricular newspaper lessons provide an opportunity for students to understand the interconnectedness of different academic subjects and understand the impact and real-world relevance of different disciplines and current topics.”

**Lesson Title: Worldly Wednesday!
Map Newspaper Activity**



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Photo Source: <https://worldlywednesday.com>

Photo Source: Tampa Bay Times NIE tampabay.com/nie

Lesson created by: Jennifer Dixon-Fitzner, Gulf High School, Pasco County

Newspaper Activity

Academic focus: This lesson integrates economics, geography, law, and literacy skills. Additionally, questions on the accompanying worksheet require students to collaborate with peers and use their analytical and critical thinking skills.

Necessary materials: newspaper, writing utensils, colored pencils, map of the world

Format:

- Today you may work independently, with a partner, or small group.
- You will be assigned an international story from the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper.
- Students are to explore the world map and shade the country relevant to their assigned story.
- Students will be given worksheets that accompany this activity.
- **You may need to use the internet to conduct research about this country if you are unaware of some facts about the country.**

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class Period: _____

1. Title/headline: _____

2. Who is the author? _____
Or who are the authors?

3. Where does the story take place? (city, state/province, country)
Note: There may be SEVERAL locations listed in the news article. If so, please list ALL locations mentioned. _____

There may be different places or regions mentioned. Different countries have provinces, regions, and/or states.

Examples:

Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

Recife is the city in the state of Pernambuco, which is in Brazil. (It is actually spelled Brasil with an s.)

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Toronto is the city in the province of Ontario, which is in Canada.

Sanremo, Imperia, Liguria, Italy

Sanremo is a city in the province of Imperia in the Liguria Region of Italy.

4. What is the capital of that country? Or if more than one country is mentioned, list the capital for each country.

5. What language is spoken there? If multiple locations are mentioned, list the vernacular (common language) spoken in each location.

6. On which continent is the country? If there are multiple continents, list them.

7. Are there any other countries or bodies of water that border the country on the north, east, south, and west? If so, list them.

8. Are there any physical characteristics of the country (or countries) that might have contributed to the events in the story? If so, list them.

9. What effect might the event or series of events have on the physical characteristics of the country or countries?

10. Does the country where the story takes place happen to have any political tensions with nearby countries? (Example: Russia & Ukraine) If so, briefly explain by writing at least a sentence what the tension is. If not, write, "No."

11. What does this article have to do with economics (class periods 1,2,3, and 5) or law studies (4th period)? **Make a connection!** What does this story have to do with any of the following topics? Banking, business, economics, the economy, government, law, peace, treaty/treaties, war, anything? **You MUST make a connection to earn full credit.**
12. List something that you learned from today's activity that you did not know before you arrived to class today.
13. Summarize: In your own words, summarize the article. Your summary **MUST** be at least three (3) sentences for you to earn full credit.

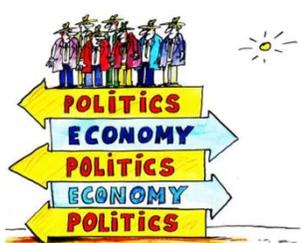
Lesson Title: Talk About It Tuesday!

Materials:

- Article(s) from the *Tampa Bay Times*
- Accompanying worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class Period: _____

2024-2025 School Year
Economics Classes 1,2,3, & 5
Law Studies 4th period



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Hello Students!

- **Please put your phone and other electronics away.**
- Today is “Talk about it Tuesday.” We will read two articles from the *Tampa Bay Times* that are about economic and political issues.
- We will read each article together as a class. The goal is to read each article within 5 to 10 minutes. If we are finished reading the article earlier, great! 😊
- We will briefly discuss each article. The discussion for each article should be approximately 5 minutes.
- After we have read and discussed the article together as a class, you will have time to answer the analytical and critical thinking questions.
- You may work independently. Or you may work collaboratively with a partner or small group.
- Each student is responsible for submitting their own work.

Yes, you may write on the articles.

**You are encouraged to
annotate the text.**

