

# Dane County's Teen Newspaper

# Simpson Street Free Press

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## Curriculum Guide – Fall 2012

Look for our vocabulary crosswords, geography quizzes, and other learning tools in the paper and online!

### History, page 1 (continued on page 7):

Have your students read the front-page article about the first humans in the Americas and discuss the following questions:

- What is the Clovis First theory?
- Why did scientists think early humans traveled across a land bridge? What made them change their minds?
- What theories are scientists proposing to replace the Clovis First theory?

### Geography, pages 2-4:

- How were the Madison area lakes formed?
- What kinds of animals lived during the Ice Age?
- What is the largest river in the world?
- What kinds of plants and animals live in the rainforests around this river? What are those rainforests called?
- How can we preserve biodiversity in the Amazon? What is biodiversity?
- Why do Wint-O-Green Life Savers spark in the dark?
- What is the largest waterfall on Earth? Where is it located?
- What makes Victoria Falls so impressive? What are some of its distinguishing features?
- What can scientists learn by studying subglacial lakes in Antarctica?



Don't forget to take the World Geography Quiz on page 3! You'll find the answers on page 5.

### History, pages 4-7:

- What is the significance of the Greensboro lunch counter at the Smithsonian?
- How did mustangs get to North America?
- What does it mean when an animal is considered feral?
- Why do we have leap day? What would happen if we didn't have it?
- What was Pleasant Ridge in the 1840s and 1850s?

Take the Jeopardy matching quiz on page 7, and check out page 14 for the answers.

### Education, pages 8 and 16:

Read our "That's a Good Word" articles and discuss some of your class' favorite and/or tricky vocabulary words. Also take our Sports History and Geography quiz on page 16.

### Space Science, pages 12-13:

- What conditions does a planet need to have in order to be considered viable for human life?
- Why do scientists think Earth had two moons? What happened to the other moon?
- What makes scientists think that Mars has liquid water?
- What can you see in an observatory? Have any of your students been to one? Have them discuss their experiences.

### Animal Watch, pages 20-21:

- Why are Indochinese tigers endangered?
- What is the American marten? Why is it a good sign that it is returning to Wisconsin?
- Where are bonobos found? What is unique about this species?
- What are some characteristics of the black-capped chickadee? How is this bird similar to other birds your class might have seen or studied? How is it different?
- How are red panda and giant pandas different?

### **Energy and the Environment, pages 22-23:**

- Which type of water is more tightly regulated: bottled water or tap water?
- Why are towns so interested in natural gas wells?
- What is fracking? Why is it controversial?

### **Science, pages 24-25:**

- Have your students read the article about lizards on page 24 and then research on a particular lizard species and share their findings with the class.
- How are vampire bats unique?
- What do jawless fish eat? Why are jawless fish less common today than they were in prehistoric times?
- What is the difference between correlation and causation? Why is it important to know the difference between these concepts?

### **Geography**

On a world or U.S. map, locate the following countries, areas, or landmarks mentioned in this issue of the *Simpson Street Free Press*.

Page 1: Bering Sea

Page 2: Amazon River

Page 5: Victoria Falls, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Page 5: Antarctica

Page 20: Thailand, Vietnam

Page 21: Democratic Republic of Congo

Page 24: Kenya, Tanzania

Page 31: Russia

### **Teachers:**

Please call us if you'd like more papers for your Classroom.

We love to hear from our readers. Have your students pick their favorite article and write a short letter to the reporter. Letters can be mailed or e-mailed to us. Thanks to all of you. Keep up your great work!

### **Contact:**

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### **Simpson Street Free Press Literacy Initiative Book Talk, pages 28-30:**

- If any of your students have read the books we've reviewed, have them share their thoughts about the book.
- Have students write their own review of books on our "Classic 30" lists and submit it to us for possible publication in the next issue of the *Simpson Street Free Press*. Published students receive **\$25 gift certificates** to a local bookstore.
- Let us know what **your school's book club** is reading! We want to feature your book club in the next issue of the *Simpson Street Free Press*.
- **Encourage students to join the 6-7-8 Club – the official online book club of the *Simpson Street Free Press*!** Students can join by visiting our website, [www.simpsonstreetfreepress.org](http://www.simpsonstreetfreepress.org).