

# KIWI KIDS NEWS

LITERACY BOOKLET

TERM 1 2026



[www.kiwikidsnews.co.nz](http://www.kiwikidsnews.co.nz)

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Read an article from each of the main sections on Kiwi Kids News then write down the headlines below.

NATIONAL	
WORLD	
SPORT	

## FEATURE ARTICLE



Your task is to read the article about 'Needs verse Wants'

Read the article on Kiwi Kids News and then answer the questions at the bottom of the article in the space to the right.

Question 1	
Question 2	
Question 3	
Activity 1	

# LITERACY TASK

## Read and Get the Gist

Read one New Zealand news article once to get the big picture. Read it a second time and do the following:

### Write down ...

- 3 key words you think are important




- 1 sentence that feels like the main point

- 1 detail that surprised you

### Create ...

- 10-word summary (exactly 10 words)

### Extend ...

Write a 30-word summary that includes who/what/where/why it matters





Read an article from each of the main sections on Kiwi Kids News then write down the headlines below.

NATIONAL	1.
	2.
WORLD	1.
	2.

# LITERACY TASK

## Read and Get the Gist

Select and read one World news article once to get the big picture. Read it a second time and do the following:

Complete this 3-level thinking responses:

- **Within the Text:** What happened? List 3 facts from the article.

- **Across (connections):** What does this connect to? (another article, your life, something at school, something in NZ, something in the world)

- **Beyond (inference/evaluation):** What might happen next, or what is the bigger issue behind this story?



## FEATURE ARTICLE



Your task is to read the article titled 'Should kids get pocket money?'

Read the article on Kiwi Kids News and then answer the questions at the bottom of the article in the space to the right.

Question 1	
Question 2	
Question 3	
Activity 1	

# How to write a feature article

Feature articles are longer, more detailed stories that explore a topic, person, or issue in depth. Unlike news articles, they aren't just about the facts — they tell a story, share opinions, and connect with the reader on a more personal level. A feature article might be about a person doing something amazing, a trending issue, or something weird and wonderful!



FEATURE ARTICLE  
**FRANKIE VENTER: THE UP AND COMING KIWI MUSICIAN**  
April 30, 2025  
When you think of superheroes, you might imagine someone in...



FEATURE ARTICLE  
**VANISHING WILDLIFE: ENDANGERED ANIMALS**  
March 19, 2025  
Our planet is home to millions of amazing creatures, from...



FEATURE ARTICLE  
**THE REFUGEE CRISIS**  
March 6, 2025  
Imagine waking up one day to find that your home...



FEATURE ARTICLE  
**THE FOOD WASTE CRISIS**  
February 19, 2025  
Imagine this: You've just finished dinner, and there's a little...



FEATURE ARTICLE  
**WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE AND HOW CAN WE HELP?**  
February 5, 2025  
The Earth is throwing a bit of a tantrum—wild storms...

## What Makes a Feature Article Different?

Feature Article	Newspaper Article
Tells a story with feeling	Reports just the facts
Includes description and detail	Keeps things short and sharp
Can share opinions and emotions	Must stay objective and neutral
Has a beginning, middle, and end	Uses the inverted pyramid structure

## The Lead -Hook

Grab the reader's attention! Use a fun fact, a quote, or a bold statement. Make them want to read more.

📌 Example: "At just 12 years old, Zara has already written two books and plans to publish more by the end of the year!"

## The Introduction

Give the reader some background. What is the article about? Why does it matter? Keep it interesting and informative.

## The Body

This is the main part of your article. Include:

- Details and facts
- Quotes from people
- Anecdotes (short stories or examples)
- Opinions and insights
- You can write in paragraphs or sections with subheadings if it helps organise your ideas.

## The Ending

Wrap it up with a final thought, a quote, or a question to leave the reader thinking.

📌 Example: "Whether or not Zara becomes the next J.K. Rowling, one thing's for sure — she's already inspiring a generation."

## Feature Article Writing Tips

- Use interesting language – include adjectives, strong verbs, and comparisons.
- Use quotes to bring real voices into your article.
- Write in third person – unless it's a personal story.
- Include your own voice – what do you think? What stood out?





Read an article from each of the main sections on Kiwi Kids News then write down the headlines below.



NATIONAL	
WORLD	
SPORT	

## FEATURE ARTICLE



Your task is to read the article entitled 'How to save - tricks that work.'

Read the article on Kiwi Kids News and then answer the questions at the bottom of the article in the space to the right.

Question 1	
Question 2	
Question 3	
Activity 1	

## LITERACY TASK

## VOCABULARY MEANING

Choose 4 words from one Kiwi Kids News article. For each word:

- Write the **Word Meaning** in this article (your own words)
- Write down the **Word Family** (related words)
- Write down any **Morphology** (prefix/root/suffix if you can spot it)
- **Use it** in a new sentence about school / sport / home / Aotearoa

WORD	MEANING	WORD FAMILY	MORPOLOGY	USE IT

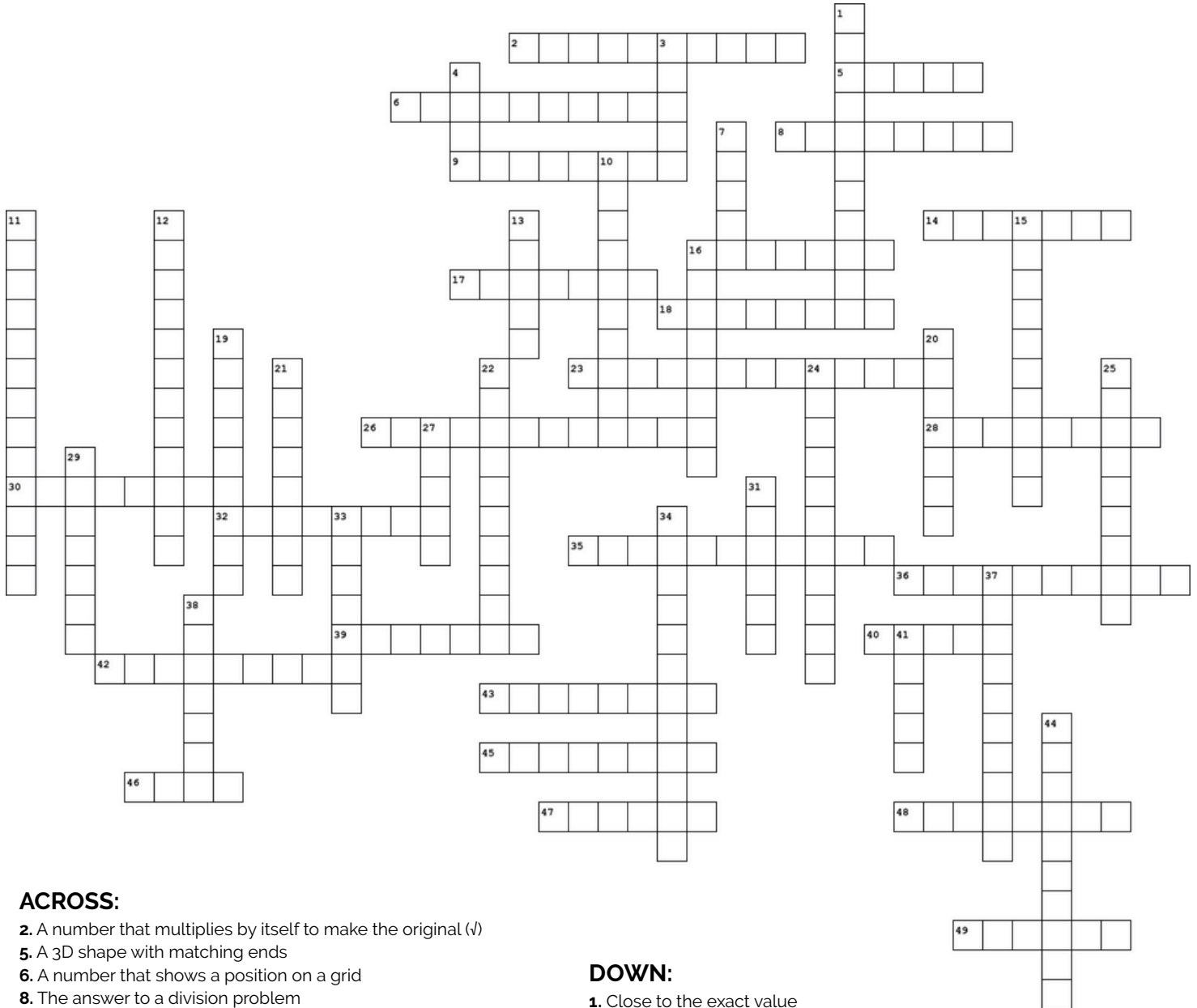
Extend ...

For one word, write a "better than basic" upgrade list (e.g., big → significant, substantial, major)





# Maths Vocabulary Crossword



## ACROSS:

2. A number that multiplies by itself to make the original ( $\surd$ )
5. A 3D shape with matching ends
6. A number that shows a position on a grid
8. The answer to a division problem
9. A small number showing repeated multiplication
14. The number you divide by
16. A number with a point, like 3.75
17. Change from one unit or form to another
18. Lines that never meet and stay the same distance apart
23. Lines that meet at a right angle
26. Multiply across brackets, like  $3(a+b)$
28. The number being divided
30. A maths sentence showing two sides are equal
32. A line from one corner to the opposite corner
35. Two coordinates written like  $(x,y)$
36. A tool for measuring angles
39. A whole number (positive, negative, or zero)
40. A comparison of two quantities
42. Change the order to isolate a variable
43. A letter that stands for a number
45. Symbols  $()$  that group parts of a calculation
46. The average of a set of numbers
47. A whole number that divides exactly into another
48. A number made by multiplying a whole number
49. The middle value when numbers are ordered

## DOWN:

1. Close to the exact value
3. Something that can happen in a chance situation
4. The most common value
7. The difference between the highest and lowest values
10. A chance test you repeat to collect results
11. Distance around a circle
12. Replacing a letter with a number
13. One part out of ten equal parts
15. A comparison using  $<$ ,  $>$ ,  $\leq$ , or  $\geq$
16. Distance across a circle through the centre
19. What is left over after dividing
20. The answer to a multiplication problem
21. A value that stays the same
22. A number out of 100
24. You can swap the order (addition/multiplication) and keep the same answer
25. One part out of one hundred equal parts
27. A size change using multiplication or division
29. A possible result of an experiment
31. Distance from centre of a circle to its edge
33. A value far away from the rest
34. Shapes that tile with no gaps or overlaps
37. One part out of one thousand equal parts
38. A rule written using symbols and letters
41. The space between two lines meeting
44. A relationship showing equal ratios

## NEED HELP?

Jump on Kiwi Kids News and go to this page for a little help  
<https://www.kiwikidsnews.co.nz/literacy-booklet...1-2026-crossword/>



Read 2 articles from each of the main sections on Kiwi Kids News then write down the headlines.

NATIONAL	
WORLD	
SPORT	
ODD STUFF	



# LITERACY TASK

## WRITE 3 HEADLINES

Select a Headline from the news this week. Then rewrite that headline in the spaces below using different styles.

**Original Headline**

**Straight news** (clear and factual)

**Click-style** (attention grabbing but still accurate)

**Community headline** (written for whānau (family) or younger readers)

**Extend:** Identify two 'loaded words' you used in the headline and explain how they influence the reader.

 → 
 → 

## FEATURE ARTICLE



Your task is to read the article entitled 'What is inflation?'

Read the article on Kiwi Kids News and then answer the questions at the bottom of the article in the space to the right.

Question 1	
Question 2	
Question 3	
Activity 1	



# How to write a Newspaper Article

Newspapers and news websites deliver news, information, and stories from around the world. Understanding the structure of a news article is essential for writers and journalists. In this activity, we will break down the key structural features of a newspaper article.



## The Inverted Pyramid

Imagine a pyramid turned upside down, with the broad base at the top and the narrow point at the bottom. This shape represents how a news article should be structured. The inverted pyramid starts with the most critical information at the beginning and gradually includes less crucial details as it progresses. This approach ensures that readers grasp the essential points even if they only read the first few sentences.

## The Headline

The headline is the newspaper's first point of contact with the reader. It serves to grab the reader's attention while summarising the main point of the article.

## The Lead

The lead is arguably the most important part of a news article. It consists of the first two or three sentences that should convey the article's main message. Key features of an effective lead paragraph include:

**Conciseness:** Use as few words as possible to convey the message.

**Clarity:** Explain clearly what has happened.

## The Four Ws

To ensure that readers understand the essential details of the article, include the Four Ws in your first three or four sentences

**Who:** Identify the people mainly affected by the events.

**What:** Explain the key events.

**Where:** Specify the location of the events.

**When:** Provide the time, day, and, if necessary, the year of the events.

## The Body

The body is the heart of the newspaper article, where you delve into more detail about the events. It typically consists of 10 to 12 sentences. Key features of the body include:

**Give information about the How and Why:** Explain how the events occurred and then explore why they happened.

**Detailed Information:** Provide a comprehensive account of what happened.

**Background Information:** Include relevant background information.

**Evidence and Quotes:** Incorporate facts, evidence, and quotes from relevant individuals.

## Grammar

News articles are always written using third-person language.

Good news articles avoid using personal opinions about the topic.

**Past Tense:** Use the past tense in all news articles.

# How to write a Newspaper Article

Understanding the structure of a newspaper article is vital for both writers and readers. It ensures that information is presented in a clear, organised, and engaging manner, making it easier for readers to grasp the news and stay informed. Whether you're a journalist or simply someone interested in writing, these structural elements will serve as a valuable guide for crafting effective newspaper articles.

Now it is your turn. Look at the article below and see how many of those features you can find. Work through the checklist and highlight the various parts of the article you can find. Show by highlighting the text or drawing a line.

## BLOBFISH WINS NZ'S 'FISH OF THE YEAR'

March 21, 2025



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A blobfish, once named the world's ugliest animal, has now been crowned New Zealand's "Fish of the Year."

The annual competition, organised by the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust, aims to raise awareness about the country's diverse marine life and fragile ecosystems. The blobfish won after receiving the most votes in an online poll that ran for just over two weeks, closing on March 16.

Blobfish, which grow to about 30 centimetres long, live deep underwater off the coasts of southeastern Australia and Tasmania. According to experts, they have pale, jelly-like flesh, loose skin, a large nose, and small, staring eyes. While they may look unusual, they play an important role in their ecosystem.

This year's competition gathered 5,583 votes in total. The blobfish won by nearly 300 votes, narrowly beating the orange roughy. The support of New Zealand radio station More FM helped push the blobfish to victory. Hosts Sarah Gandy and Paul Flynn encouraged listeners to vote, saying the blobfish had been "bullied" for too long and deserved its moment of recognition.

Kim Jones, co-director of the trust, described it as a close contest between two deep-sea creatures. She also reminded voters that many native fish species are at risk due to climate change and environmental changes. The competition helps people learn more about these unique fish and why they need protection.

### NEWS ARTICLE CHECKLIST

- The Headline
- The Lead
- The Body
- Third person language
- Background information
- Quote
- Past Tense

### WRITE A NEWS ARTICLE

Choose a school event or something that has happened in New Zealand and write a newspaper article.

Make sure to use the checklist above.

If you would like your article published, then send a copy of the article to [editor@kiwikidsnews.co.nz](mailto:editor@kiwikidsnews.co.nz) and you might find it in our Student Article section.



Read 2 articles from each of the main sections on Kiwi Kids News then write down the headlines.



NATIONAL	1.
	2.
WORLD	1.
	2.

# LITERACY TASK

# NEWS REPORT

Write a 120–150 word mini news report about something that has been in the news this week. Your news report must include the following:

- A lead sentence (who/what/where)
- Two key details
- One quote (real from the article, or imagined but realistic)

Use your own words for your article but feel free to take information from the news article that you read.



**Extension:** Add a second viewpoint (e.g., "Some people believe..., however others think...")

# FEATURE ARTICLE

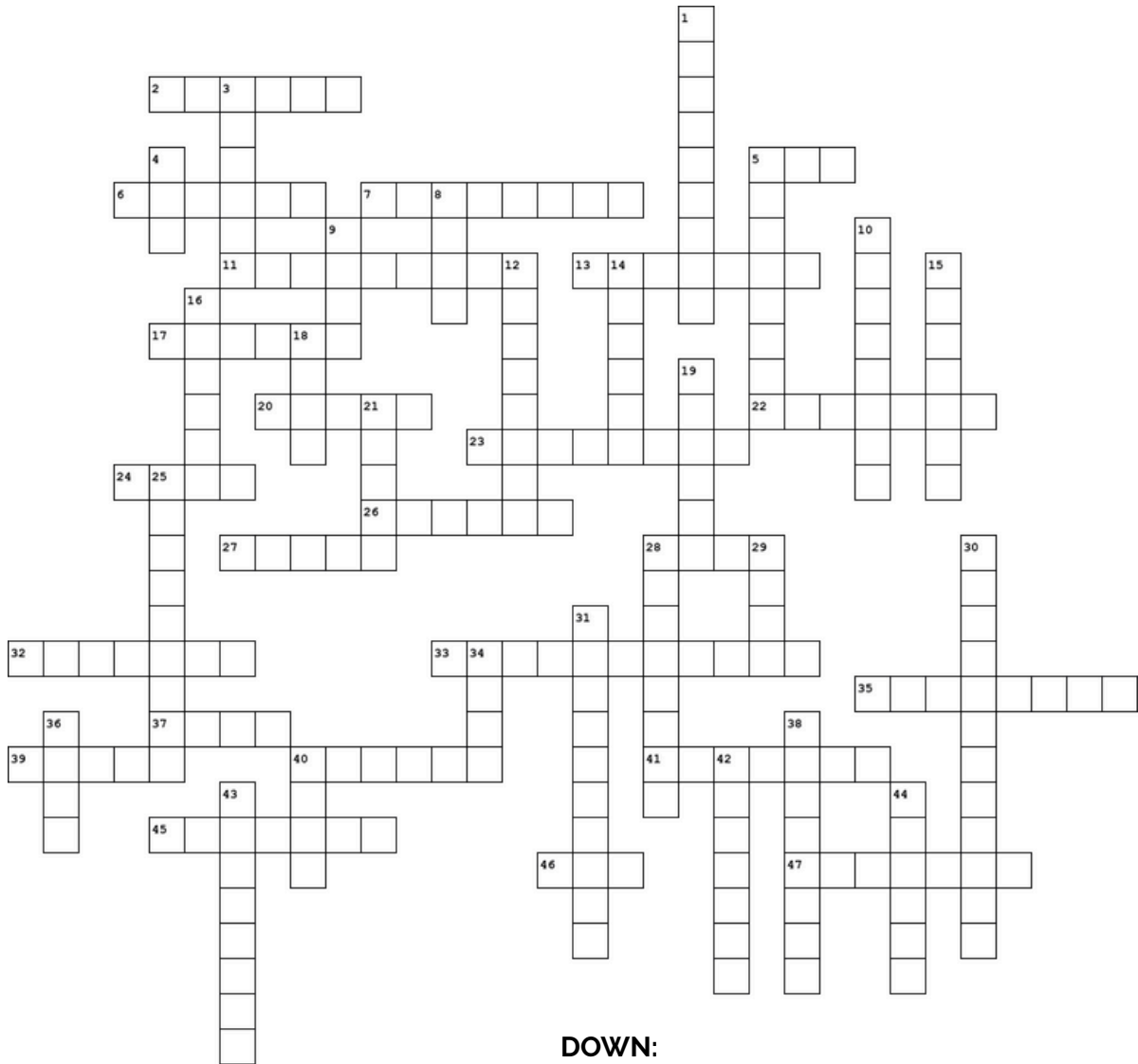


Your task is to read the article titled 'Why do things cost different amounts?'

Read the article on Kiwi Kids News and then answer the questions at the bottom of the article in the space to the right.

Question 1	
Question 2	
Question 3	
Activity 1	

# Finance Vocabulary Crossword



## ACROSS:

2. Take money or something with a plan to pay/return it
5. Extra money you give to thank someone for service
6. Safe and protected online
7. A secret word to protect your account
11. A card that uses money from your bank account
13. Where your money is stored at a bank
17. Stop a subscription or service
20. The name/logo of a company
22. Paying again to keep a subscription going
23. The type of money a country uses (like NZ dollars)
24. Money you are paid for a job
26. Give money to help a cause
27. Things you would like but don't need
28. A special price that saves you money
32. Look at prices to choose the best value
33. Messages that try to get you to buy things
35. The online step where you pay
37. A piece of metal money
39. How good something is for its price
40. A plan for how you will use your money
41. Proof you paid for something
45. Money you pay out for something
46. Money paid to the government to help run the country
47. Put money into your account

## DOWN:

1. When prices rise and money buys less
3. Money you get back after returning an item
4. A small cost you pay for a service
5. Move money from one account to another
8. A trick to steal your money or details
9. A payment you must pay, like power or phone
10. Extra money paid or earned over time
12. Money taken off the price
14. Coins you get back when you pay too much
15. Something that is a really good deal
16. Keeping money for later
18. Get money by working or helping
19. Money you get (from work, pocket money, gifts)
21. Things you must have (food, water, shelter)
25. Pocket money you get regularly
28. When what you bought is brought to you
29. Money you borrow and must pay back
30. Paying regularly for a service (like streaming)
31. A card that lets you buy now and pay later
34. Money you owe to someone
36. When a shop lowers prices for a short time
38. Take money out of your account
40. A place where money is kept safe
42. Giving money to help others
43. Using money to buy things
44. Money made after costs are paid

## NEED HELP?

Jump on Kiwi Kids News and go to this page for a little help  
<https://www.kiwikidsnews.co.nz/literacy-booklet-term-1-2026-money-crossword>



Read 2 articles from each of the main sections on Kiwi Kids News then write down the headlines.

NATIONAL	1.
	2.
WORLD	1.
	2.
ODD STUFF	1.
	2.
SPORT	1.
	2.

Complete the Kiwi Kids News Weekly Quiz. You can find this on Kiwi Kids News every Friday morning.

**SCORE**  
**/10**

# LITERACY TASK

# READING COMPREHENSION

Select and read one New Zealand news article once to get the big picture. Read it a second time and then answer the following questions:

How might this story affect our school / our community / our country?

What might a student from overseas notice about this story that we might not?

What values (e.g., fairness, manaakitanga (care for others), perseverance) show up here?

What local action could we take in response to this story? (At school, at home, or in the community) Write one realistic next step and explain why it would help.

What 2 words in this article feel "powerful" or "loaded"? What do they make you think/feel?

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



You might not have your own Netflix account or a music subscription yet, but chances are, someone in your house does. Maybe it's Spotify for music, Netflix for movies, or an app that helps with homework. These are all subscriptions, and they're part of a growing money trend that even adults are starting to worry about.

At first, they seem like no big deal. Just a few dollars a month, right? But those small payments can quietly build up over time, turning into a money trap that's hard to notice until it's too late.

Let's take a look at why subscriptions are called "quiet spending," and how you can learn to control your money like a pro.

A subscription is when you agree to pay regularly – usually weekly, monthly, or yearly – for a product or service. Some popular examples include Netflix, Spotify, Disney+, YouTube Premium, and gaming platforms like Xbox Game Pass or Roblox Premium. Subscriptions can be super convenient. You get unlimited access to music, shows, games, or digital tools. But here's the catch: they keep charging you until you cancel. That's where people start losing track of their money.

Let's talk numbers. Many subscriptions seem pretty cheap, "only \$2.99 a week" or "just \$9.99 a month." But when you add them up, they can become budget busters.

Add a couple more subscriptions and suddenly you're spending hundreds of dollars every year, quietly disappearing from your bank account. It's kind of like having a leaky tap. It drips slowly, so you barely notice. But over time, all that dripping adds up and your money goes down the drain.

Subscription services are designed to be "set and forget." That's not an accident! They want you to stay subscribed, even if you stop using the service. They use special techniques which make them sneaky.

Here are a few:

Free trials: They lure you in with a free week or month, hoping you'll forget to cancel before they start charging.

Auto-renewal: Once you're in, the payments keep coming unless you actively cancel.

Hidden costs: Some subscriptions charge extra fees or bump up prices over time.

There are smart ways to take control of your money and outsmart quiet spending. First, try tracking your subscriptions by making a list of everything you or your family pays for regularly. You can write it down in a notebook, use an app, or even stick a note on the fridge. Next, set reminders if you're using a free trial so you can cancel before any surprise charges show up. It also helps to do the maths – figure out how much each subscription costs per year and ask yourself if you're really using it enough to make it worth it. If you haven't touched it in a while, it might be time to cancel. Some people also use gift cards or prepaid options instead of automatic payments, which helps avoid surprise charges. And finally, stick to a budget. Decide how much you want to spend on subscriptions each month, and try to limit yourself to just one or two at a time.

So even if the subscriptions aren't in your name yet, understanding how they work now puts you one step ahead. Those "small" payments your family makes each month can quietly add up. Subscriptions don't have to be a trap, as long as you're the one telling your money where to go, not the other way around.

## Comprehension Questions:

- What is a subscription, and why can it lead to "quiet spending"?

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- How do free trials and auto-renewals make it easy to forget about subscriptions?

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- What are two smart ways to keep track of and manage subscription spending?

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## Activity: Build Your Dream Budget

Imagine you get \$20 a month to spend on subscriptions.

### Your task is to:

Pick up to 3 subscriptions (real or made-up) you'd want to spend your money on.

Write down: The name of the subscription, what it gives you, how much it costs per month

Make sure your total stays under \$20!

### Then, answer:

Why did you choose these ones?

Did you have to give up anything to stay on budget?

What would you do if one of them raised their price?



Read 2 articles from each of the main sections on Kiwi Kids News then write down the headlines.



NATIONAL	1.
	2.
WORLD	1.
	2.
ODD STUFF	1.
	2.



# LITERACY TASK WITHIN, ACROSS AND BEYOND

Select and read one World news article once to get the big picture. Read it a second time and do the following:

Complete this 3-level thinking responses:

- **Within the Text:** What happened? List 3 facts from the article.

- **Across (connections):** What does this connect to? (another article, your life, something at school, something in NZ, something in the world)

- **Beyond (inference/evaluation):** What might happen next, or what is the bigger issue behind this story?

## Where in the World

Where in the world did our news come from? On the left-hand side, list the countries, cities, or places where our world or odd stuff news came from this week. Place a dot on the world map to show where this is.

Country:

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# WEEK 7 FEATURE ARTICLE

This week's Feature Article is about advertising. What is it? How is it used? What should kids look out for?

Read the article on the Kiwi Kids News website and then complete the following activities.

**SHORT OVERVIEW – Write a sentence explaining what this Feature Article was about.**

**VOCABULARY - Find three words from the article that you are unsure of their meaning. Place it in the first box and then then put the dictionary definition in the box beside it.**

WORD	DEFINITION
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px; width: 100%;"></div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px; width: 100%;"></div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px; width: 100%;"></div>

**Use the space provided below to answer the questions at the bottom of this week's Feature Article. You will need to include the question in your answer.**

**Comprehension Question 1 :** Write the question here.

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**Comprehension Question 2 :** Write the question here.

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**Activity 1 :** Write the instructions here.



Read an article from each of the main sections on Kiwi Kids News then write down the headlines below.

NATIONAL	
WORLD	
SPORT	
ODD STUFF	

## FEATURE ARTICLE



Your task is to read the article titled 'Online shopping: What to watch for?'

Read the article on Kiwi Kids News and then answer the questions at the bottom of the article in the space to the right.

Question 1	
Question 2	
Question 3	
Activity 1	

## LITERACY TASK

## PARAGRAPH WRITING

Choose one paragraph from the article. Rewrite it in two different ways:

**Simple & clear (shorter sentences, easy to read)**

**More advanced (combine ideas, add one complex sentence, more precise vocabulary)**

Then answer: Which version is best for Year 7–8 readers? Why?



Read 2 articles from each of the main sections on Kiwi Kids News then write down the headlines.

NATIONAL	1.
	2.
WORLD	1.
	2.
SPORT	1.
	2.
ODD STUFF	1.
	2.



**END of TERM SUPER QUIZ**

Complete the Kiwi Kids News Weekly Quiz.  
You can find this on Kiwi Kids News every Friday morning.

SCORE /30



## Vocabulary Builder

Below are 2 word grids. To the right of each grid make as many 4, 5, and 6 letter words as possible.

G	R	O	W
T	I	M	E
C	A	S	T
P	U	L	L

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R	F	W	O
O	M	I	N
T	A	D	S
H	C	K	E

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<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Your favourite article from Term 1</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>A WORLD article that made you feel happy</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>An article that you think everyone should read</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>An article that taught you something new about science</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>A FEATURE ARTICLE that made you feel inspired</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>An article that made you feel sad or emotional</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>An article about a country you would like to visit.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>An article about a topic you are interested in</p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p>A crazy ODD STUFF article you thought was a little strange</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>An article that would make a great short film</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>An article about a famous person.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>An article with a funny headline</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p>An article you would share with your whānau</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>An article about a world leader.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>An article that made you want to learn more about the topic</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>An article about someone you would like to meet.</p>

## Bingo board

Get ready to explore the Kiwi Kids News website and become a news detective! Your goal is to find the answers to the clues below by searching through different sections of the website. Once you find the answer, mark the box with an "X" and then write the article headline in the box below.

**Can you complete the entire bingo card?**

### ANSWERS

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

### ANSWERS

- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.