Newspapers
For hundreds of years people have depended on newspapers to inform them about what's going on in the world. Every major city has at least one newspaper; most have more than one. And almost every local county and town have some form of newspaper. Newspapers are a part of global history and global culture. It is the most democratic form of information, affordable and accessible. But today newspapers face competition from sources that range from television to the Internet.

This episode of Modern Marvels examines newspapers and their role in history and society. Newspapers would be useful for classes on American History, American culture, World History, Journalism, Media Studies and Ethics. It is appropriate for middle school and high school.

OBJECTIVE
Students will examine the role of newspapers in American and world history. They will explore the role of the media in politics, culture and society. They will also analyze the relationship between communications and technology, and how the media not only reports the news, but also influences, and at times, makes the news.

NATIONAL HISTORY STANDARDS
Newspapers fulfills the following National Standards for History for grades 5-12: chronological thinking, historical comprehension, historical analysis and interpretations, and historical research capabilities for United States History eras 4, 5, 6, 7,8, 9 and 10; World History eras 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Discussion Questions
1. How do words become a newspaper? Describe the process of producing a newspaper from an event or interview to the final product.
2. The primary objective of a newspaper is to deliver news. But what makes news? How does one determine what is news, and what is not?
3. Sometimes other forms of media determine what stories a newspaper will carry. How and why does this happen? Can you give some examples?
4. The press has a relationship with every president. Discuss the relationship between the president and the press. How can the press help or hinder a president?
5. Discuss the role of the computer in newspaper reporting and production.
6. Discuss the role of newspapers in a free society. Is the role of the press in a free society different than that of a censured society?
7. In the 15th century, Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press. How did this invention change the world?
8. Discuss the role of newspapers and pamphlets in the American Revolution.
9. Before the 19th century, newspapers were expensive and read only by the wealthy. How and why did newspapers become inexpensive in the 19th century?
10. What is yellow journalism? What are some examples of yellow journalism today?
11. The White House contains a room to house the members of the press. How did the White House Press Room get established?
12. Discuss the role of television in the Vietnam War.
13. What do you think the future holds for newspapers?

Extended Activities

1. Create a newspaper for your class.
2. Create a poster illustrating the process of producing a newspaper.
3. Design a newspaper advertisement for your favorite product.