

# NON-FICTION ARTICLES

**PDF & DIGITAL FORMATS**

## Bundle

- ✓ 10 Articles
- ✓ 14 Graphic Organizers
- ✓ MP3 Audio Files
- ✓ 2 Article Levels
- ✓ 3 Post-Reading Activities



**MIDDLE SCHOOL SET 2**



## 2 Peas and a Dog

Middle School Teaching Resources

## RESOURCE INCLUDES

- ✓ 10 High-Interest Articles
- ✓ Regular & Modified Articles
- ✓ Comprehension Questions
- ✓ 12 Graphic Organizers
- ✓ Teacher Instructions
- ✓ MP3 Audio Files
- ✓ 3 Post-Reading Activities
- ✓ Assessment Options
- ✓ Answer Keys
- ✓ Print & Digital Formats

# ARTICLE TOPICS

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Public Swimming Pool Safety     | 6. The Disappearance of Amelia Earhart |
| 2. Dangerous North American Snakes | 7. Podcasts                            |
| 3. The Mystery of Oak Island       | 8. Alcatraz                            |
| 4. The History of Television       | 9. Dangerous North American Animals    |
| 5. The Titanic                     | 10. Dangerous North American Spiders   |
|                                    | 11. Japan's Cat Islands                |

# WHAT'S INSIDE?



## LESSON PLAN

### Alcatraz

#### Lesson Overview:

Students will work on their non-fiction reading skills while reading this article.

#### Materials Needed:

Photocopy a class set of the following or use the provided Google Slides version for 1:1 technology schools:

- K-W-L Chart
- Non-fiction article – regular or modified version (audio file also included)
- Comprehension questions – regular or modified version
- Thinking questions
- Grammar questions (also available as a self-marking Google Forms Quiz)

#### Video:

- Video #1: [Alcatraz – A Prison in the Clouds](#)
- Video #2: [Former Alcatraz Prisoner Returns to Reunite with Ex-Guards](#)

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## LESSON PLAN

### Dangerous North American Animals

#### Lesson Overview:

Students will work on their non-fiction reading skills while reading this article.

#### Materials Needed:

Photocopy a class set of the following or use the provided Google Slides version for 1:1 technology schools:

- K-W-L Chart
- Non-fiction article – regular or modified version (audio file also included)

#### Video:

- Video: [7 Most Dangerous Animals in North America](#)

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## LESSON PLAN

### The History of Television

#### Lesson Overview:

Students will work on their non-fiction reading skills while reading this article.

#### Materials Needed:

Photocopy a class set of the following or use the provided Google Slides version for 1:1 technology schools:

- K-W-L Chart
- Non-fiction article – regular or modified version (audio file also included)
- Comprehension questions, regular or modified version

- Grammar questions (also available as a self-marking Google Forms Quiz)

#### Video

- Video: [I Love Lucy – The Chocolate Factory](#)

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# LESSON PLANS

# WHAT'S INSIDE?



## ALCATRAZ PRISON

What is Alcatraz?

Alcatraz is a former U.S. federal prison, located on Alcatraz Island in the San Francisco Bay. It was a military fortress and became a maximum security prison in 1934.

Men were sent to Alcatraz who were too dangerous or too violent to be dealt with at other prisons. One was ever confirmed to have escaped Alcatraz. The prison was closed in 1963 because the building was aging and it was too expensive to operate.

Life Inside Alcatraz

Alcatraz was the first time in United States history that prisoners were difficult to escape. They were together in a 'concentration camp' environment.

experimental. The first warden (prison boss) hired roughly one guard for every three prisoners.

Inside the prison, inmates had the right to four things: shelter, food, care, food and clothing. Everything else had to be earned. That included writing to and having visits with friends and family, working at the prison, using the prison library and recreational activities such as sports and painting.

## DANGEROUS NORTH AMERICAN ANIMALS

Rattlesnakes and other snakes, such as the cottonmouth, are pit-vipers, which means they can detect warm-blooded prey with heat sensitive pits on their face.

The most venomous snake in America is the coral snake, a part of the cobra family.

Sharks

The "big three" sharks (the ones that eat people) are the great white, the tiger shark and the shark. Most attacks occur

The crocodile is even bigger than the American alligator and can be found

## PODCASTS



A podcast is made up of episodes, ranging from 10 minutes to 2 hours each. A podcast usually has 1 or 2 hosts who discuss a variety of subjects. The topics can be looked at broadly or in specific ways.

Each podcast is usually based around a theme that the hosts dive further into, within each episode.

Podcasts have guests to discuss a certain topic for educational or entertainment purposes.

Podcasts can be used to inform, and are most commonly described as listening in on a group of friends chatting about life.

Sometimes, podcasts can replicate a TV show by providing weekly episodes that, together, create a serialized story.

Podcasts have become extremely popular and it would not be hard to find a subject matter that could meet your interests.

Some titles of popular middle school podcasts are "Mars Patel," "Six Minutes" and "Smash Boom Best."

## 11 ARTICLES



Great White Shark

Alligators & Crocodiles

The jaws of an alligator have the strongest laboratory-measured bite of any living animal. It will eat about anything, including dead snakes, deer and humans.

Most podcasts sell advertising space on their podcasts to offset the production costs.

Some would describe a podcast as "radio on demand" because you do not need to tune into a broadcast to listen.

Most podcasts can be downloaded to any media player, including your cell phone. Many people listen to podcasts on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Stitcher.

Most often, a podcast can be described as an audio show that you can listen to on your own time.

## ARTICLE QUESTIONS

/10

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

Instructions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of lined paper.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What are public swimming pools?
2. What 2 things are not allowed at a public pool, and what are the consequences?
3. What does pH measure?
4. How much fecal matter is in a public pool? How many people can be in a public pool?
5. What does the acronym "pH" stand for?
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

## THINKING QUESTION

Assessment	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Above Expectations
	✓-	✓	✓+

What previous knowledge did you have about spiders that helped you better understand this article? Explain your previous knowledge using at least three details.

## POST-READING ACTIVITIES

# WHAT'S INSIDE?



## SAMPLE ANSWERS

What feature of a rattlesnake allows them to make their distinctive "rattle" noise?

Their hollow tail allows

What kind of habitat do

The eastern diamondback

pine forests, mainly in

What symptoms would

western diamondback

If a person is bitten by

vomiting, swelling, diarr

Where do

The Mojave rattlesnake

the southern areas of

Describe the process of

The Mojave rattlesnake

from the venom. This

## ARTICLE ANSWERS

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

Instructions: Answer the following questions on this paper.

- What does evolved mean?
  - To change in a negative way
  - To draw a circle
  - To change very quickly
  - To develop gradually
- By 1993, how many Americans reported owning a television?
  - 98%
  - 64%
  - 88%
  - 72%
- Which sentence has the correct spelling and punctuation?
  - Although the Great Depression slowed the production of television sets, they became quite popular after thier relaese.
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## REGULAR ARTICLE

## MODIFIED ARTICLE

## ALCATRAZ PRISON

Two famous prisoners were gangsters Al Capone (nicknamed Scarface) and George "Machine Gun" Kelly.

Al Capone was the boss of the organized crime rumoured to be the murder of rival gang leader and sale of alcohol. He was arrested for tax evasion and sent to prison.

Another famous prisoner was Alvin Karpowicz was the leader of the Barker-Karpis gang. He was arrested for the longest time more than 25 years. He was called "Public Enemy No. 1" in the 1930s.

Of those who tried to escape: 23 were caught, 6 died during their attempts, 2 drowned and another 5 went missing (and were presumed drowned).

Did These 3 Men Survive? There were 3 men who were never found and their escape attempt was shrouded in mystery for years to come. Brothers John and Clarence Anglin and Frank Morris (bank robbers) came up with a plan that



Alcatraz Prison Yard

of San Francisco Bay, 1.5 miles (almost 2.5 kilometers) from the mainland. That meant if you didn't have a boat, you were going to have to try and swim the cold, strong waters to the city.

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## ALCATRAZ PRISON

### Escape Attempts

There were 14 escape attempts made by 36 prisoners. None were ever confirmed to be successful.

Of those who tried to escape: 23 were caught, 6 died during their attempts, 2 drowned and another 5 went missing (and were thought to have drowned).

### Did These 3 Men Survive?

There were 3 men who were never found and their escape attempt was a mystery for many years.

The men used a raincoat raft to try and paddle across the bay.

No one knows if the men died while trying to escape, or if they made it to shore.

### Alcatraz Island Today

In 1973, it was opened up to the public and it gets about 1 million visitors each year.

Starting in 1980, each year during the "Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon," athletes have proven that it's possible to swim the 1.5 miles to the mainland.



Alcatraz Prison Yard

Word Bank  
Maximum security prison – a prison that does as much as possible to keep prisoners from escaping and watches them very closely.

Cell – small prison room.

Solitary confinement – living without the contact of other prisoners in a smaller cell and more security.

Segregation – to keep apart from others.

Triathlon – an athletic contest with three different events, usually swimming, cycling, and long-distance running.

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# REGULAR & MODIFIED ARTICLES

# TEACHER FEEDBACK

“While I initially purchased this resource for distance learning, it has become a staple in my classroom now that we’re all back in the building. Stories are high-interest, and even if kids are familiar with the topic, they always learn something new. Easy to use, minimal prep!” – Melissa Endicott.



“I’ve purchased three separate Article of the Week Bundles and there is a reason why. They are AMAZING! The students also enjoy them and like learning new random things! I also have the Article of the Week Differentiated Bundle. Amazing resources that can be used year after year!! Thank you!” – Tayler S.

# LESSON FORMATS



**PDF**

✓ Individual & Whole Unit



**DIGITAL**

✓ Google Slides

**RESOURCE CAN BE USED IN-PERSON OR ONLINE**