

*References***Textbook**

Chapters 1 & 2

Specification

9.1 Infectious diseases

5.b Aims

Infectious Diseases In The News

Introduction

Newspaper articles are an important resource in SPU. This is an introductory activity which encourages students to begin to use newspapers and magazines to complement their SPU classes. It is intended to be used early on in the course and will be followed up by more detailed comprehension and critical reading activities later. Infectious disease is suggested as the focus because it is usually taught early in the course and is always in the news. At the time of writing there have been recent articles on malaria, AIDS, SARS, MMR and syphilis.

Method

This is a homework activity with 20-30 minutes of class time needed the following week.

Produce one or two articles as examples, preferably from different types of newspaper and pin them up on the classroom noticeboard. Tell students that their homework is to find at least one article about any aspect of infectious disease and to bring it in to the next class.

Next Lesson

Get students to present the issue in the story to the class, very briefly as one would in a conversation. Allow discussion and questions so that different articles on the same issues can be compared and because there will often be confusion or misunderstanding. You can make the connection with the topic or Ideas about Science if appropriate.

When you feel sufficient members of the class have presented their articles collect in all the articles and pin them up on the noticeboard. Refer to them in subsequent teaching when possible.

Don't be tempted to do too much analysis at this stage. The aim is just to get them looking at newspapers.

The activity could be repeated later with another topic or they could be asked to bring in anything relevant to SPU. The notice board needs to be renewed regularly and this will provide a good source of appropriate articles.