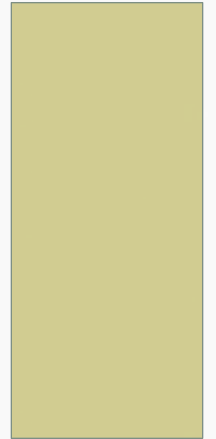




HISTORY OF THE NEWSPAPER

FROM THE FIRST ROMAN NEWSPAPER TO
THE ONLINE NEWSPAPERS OF TODAY



OBJECTIVES

In this lesson we will be learning about the history of the newspaper, and how it came to resemble the many forms, and fulfill the many purposes it does today. By the end of today's lesson you should be able to:

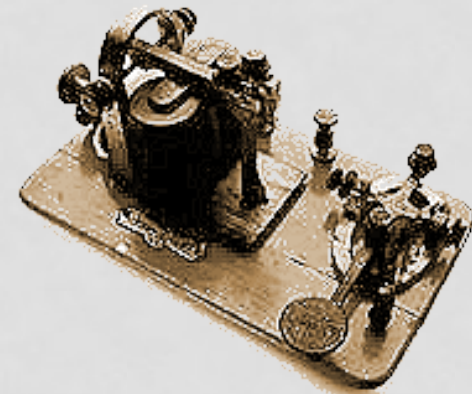
- Have a general sense of a historic timeline
- Identify key events in the newspapers development
- Recognize the timeframe in which newspapers were the key, and sometimes only source of news to the public
- Name and explain how technologies like the telegraph and camera changed the newspaper industry
- Explain how newspapers adapted to the development of other forms of news media like the radio, television, and internet.

“A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NEWSPAPER”



Read the following article written by WAN, the World Association of Newspapers:

<http://www.wan-press.org/article2821.html>



NEWSPAPER “FIRSTS”

Review the following sites to get a sense of when the most important “firsts” of newspaper history occurred.



“A Newspaper Timeline”

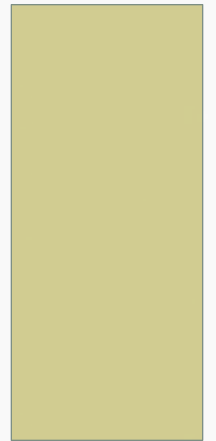
[http://www.wan-press.org/
article2822.html](http://www.wan-press.org/article2822.html)

“Worlds Oldest Newspapers”

[http://www.wan-press.org/
article2823.html](http://www.wan-press.org/article2823.html)

HISTORY OF NEWSPAPERS

THE NEWS STORIES THAT CONNECTED THE WORLD,
THE COUNTRY, AND THE COMMUNITY



THIS LESSON'S FOCUS

- Since we took a look at the development of the newspaper including key technological advances and interesting “firsts” in the newspaper’s historical timeline, we should now examine major historical events covered by the newspaper.
- In this lesson you will:
 - Examine the role of newspapers in everyday life over the timeframe when newspapers were the major news source.
 - Explore historical events by reading and examining original newspaper headlines and articles.
 - Compare and Contrast wording, style, and imagery of these historical newspapers to those of today.

GENERAL CONTENT OF THE NEWSPAPER

Roman Empire: *Acta Diurna* (59 B.C.)- Used to inform the public of government and military actions.

The news has to go where the public is, so it was posted in public bath houses and other commonly frequented places.

The Renaissance: (1400-1600's)

Johann Gutenberg's printing press, invented in 1447, creates a way for information to be transmitted between countries, propelling the exchange of knowledge during the Renaissance.



GENERAL CONTENT OF THE NEWSPAPER

17th Century: Newspapers focused on foreign, not domestic affairs. Printed regularly in Western Europe.

- Second half of the 17th Century: local issues become focus of content

Mid 19th Century: Newspaper becomes the most relied upon news source.

Heavily used as political propaganda throughout its existence by ruling power or revolutionaries.



SONS OF LIBERTY/THOMAS PAINE

The *Sons of Liberty*, a group formed in 1765 in protest to the Stamp Act of the British Government taxing paper and other items to help pay for the French and Indian War. The Sons used the newspaper, violence, and intimidation to increase anti-Stamp Act sentiment.

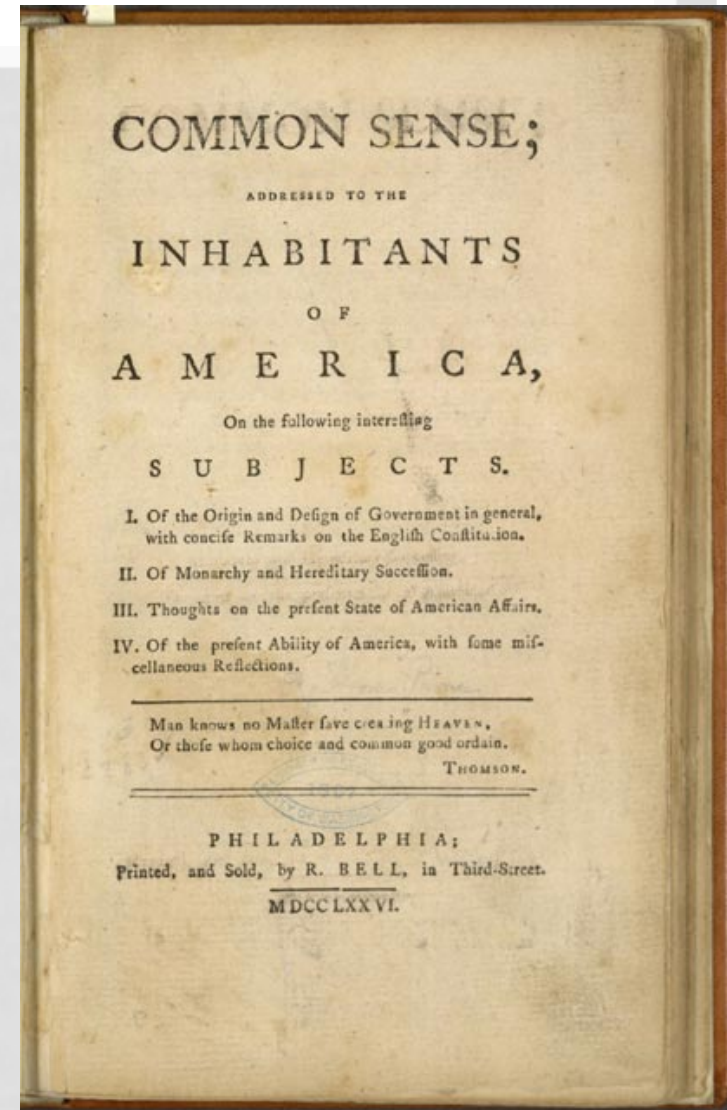
The *Son's of Liberty* would go on to insight other protests against British taxes, and create an environment that would promote revolution.

- The Sons of Liberty
- <http://www.ushistory.org/Declaration/related/sons.htm>



THOMAS PAINE

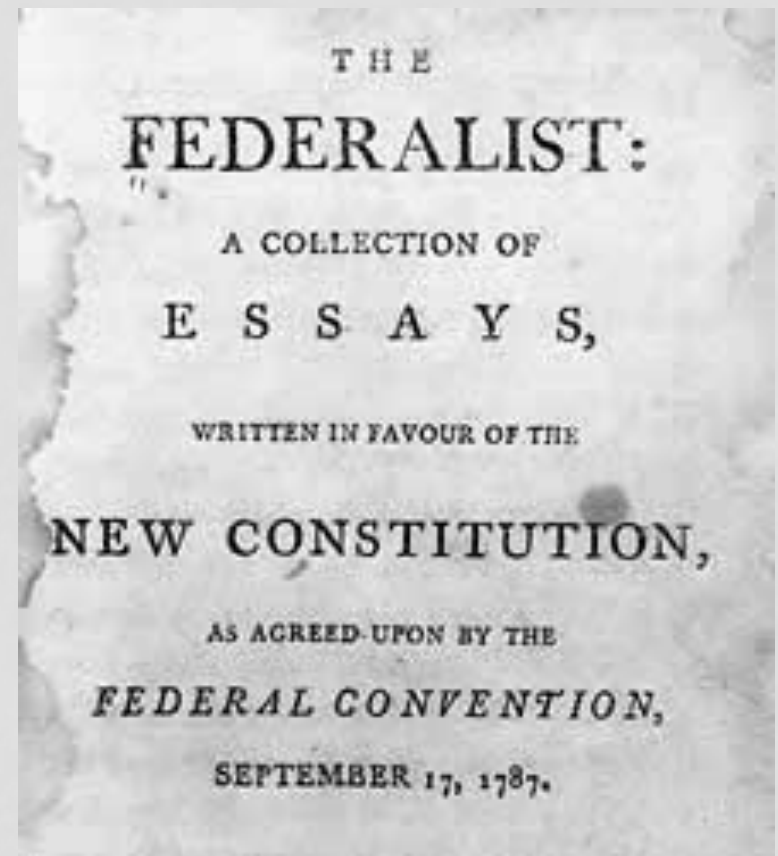
Philadelphia Editor, Thomas Paine's pamphlet "Common Sense" was the first publication to argue for the North American Colonies to separate from the British Crown, and was the basis for the Declaration of Independence. He used language that the masses would understand to gain a larger audience. His work was published through the colonies and eventually, the world.



THE FEDERALIST PAPERS

Mostly written by Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, the Federalist papers were a collection of 85 articles written between 1787-88 to convince the states to ratify the new constitution, written during the Constitutional Convention. Those who did not want a national government called themselves the Anti-Federalists and replied in pamphlets of their own.

The structure of our current government was argued in pamphlet form.



ELECTION COVERAGE: INFORMING AND ENTERTAINING THE VOTER

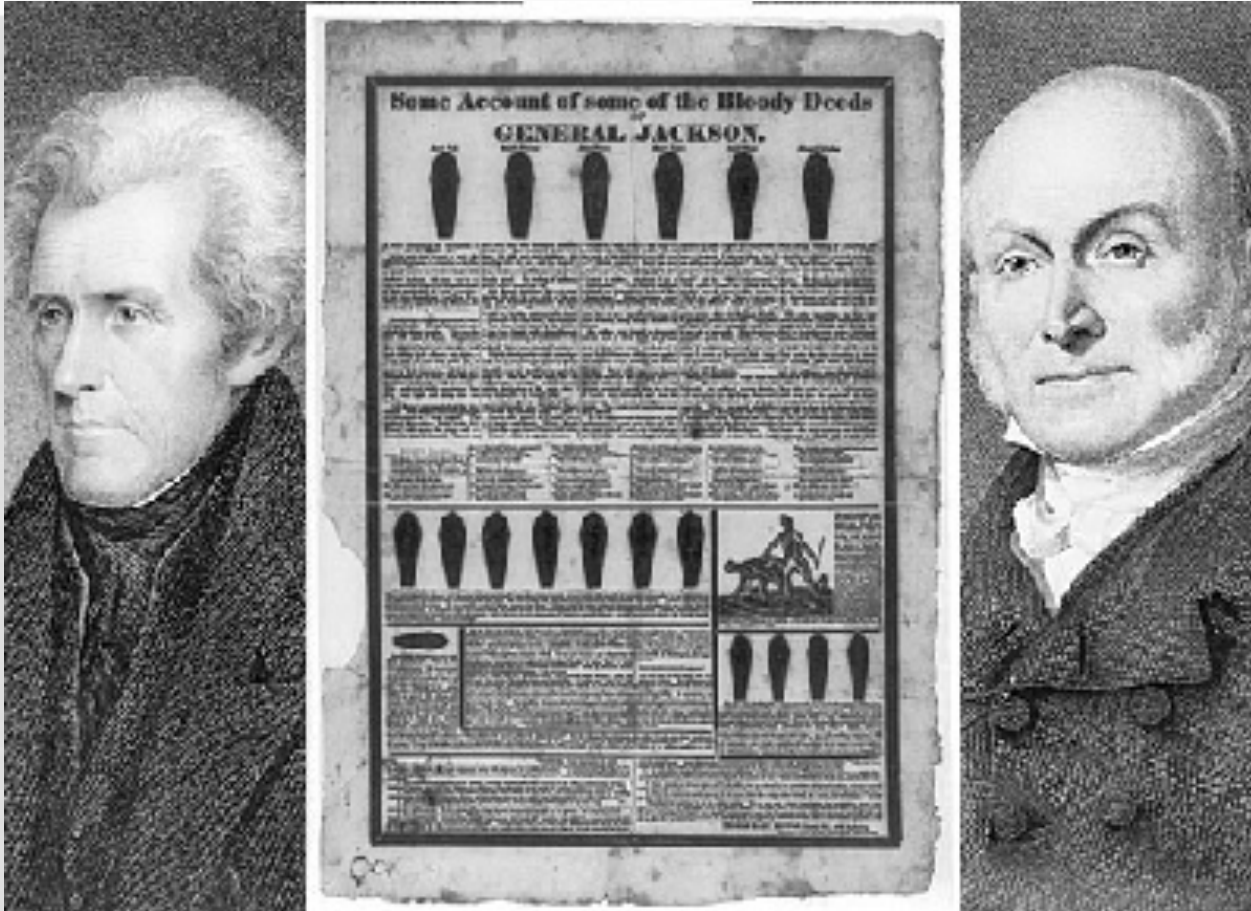
As individual states increasingly gave white men the right to vote during the 1820's, politics became dependent on reaching and convincing the voter to pick a particular candidate. Elections, previously run by candidates publishing their platform (political positions), and argued in political pamphlets, now had the common voter to convince. Elections became far more intense, as accusations, insults, and arguments filled the newspapers.

The Election of 1824, John Quincy Adams Vs. Andrew Jackson, was such a case, as the first presidential election held with mass democracy in place.

Jackson's wife was said to have taken ill and died (Jackson accused) because of the nasty nature of the campaign. Adams after taking office was said to have made a deal with Henry Clay, another presidential contender, making him Secretary of State if Adams won, and he bowed out of the race. It became known as the "corrupt bargain."

Newspapers would, from this point to the present, be a pivotal part of political campaigns.

“SOME ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE BLOODY DEEDS OF GENERAL JACKSON”



Campaign Add against Andrew Jackson used during the 1828 Campaign Jackson vs. Adams



Hearst's *New York Journal* covering the news of the sinking of the Maine, one of the major reasons the US got involved in the Spanish American War.

“YELLOW JOURNALISM”

Newspaper tabloids developed from sensational journalism, known as “Yellow Journalism” in the late 1800’s. These stories were not factual reporting, and were intended to increase sales. Competing Newspaper barons Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hurst pushed the US to war with Spain with their exaggerated headlines.

It is a clear example how newspapers can promote or exploit a viewpoint for their own profit.

WWI AND WWII

Even with the popular use of the radio, the newspaper headlines were frequently where news radio would get it's information. During wartime the newspapers printed the most recent events, but were also censored to reduce the amount of opposition. This occurred in the US during both WWI (Espionage Act, 1917) and WWII.

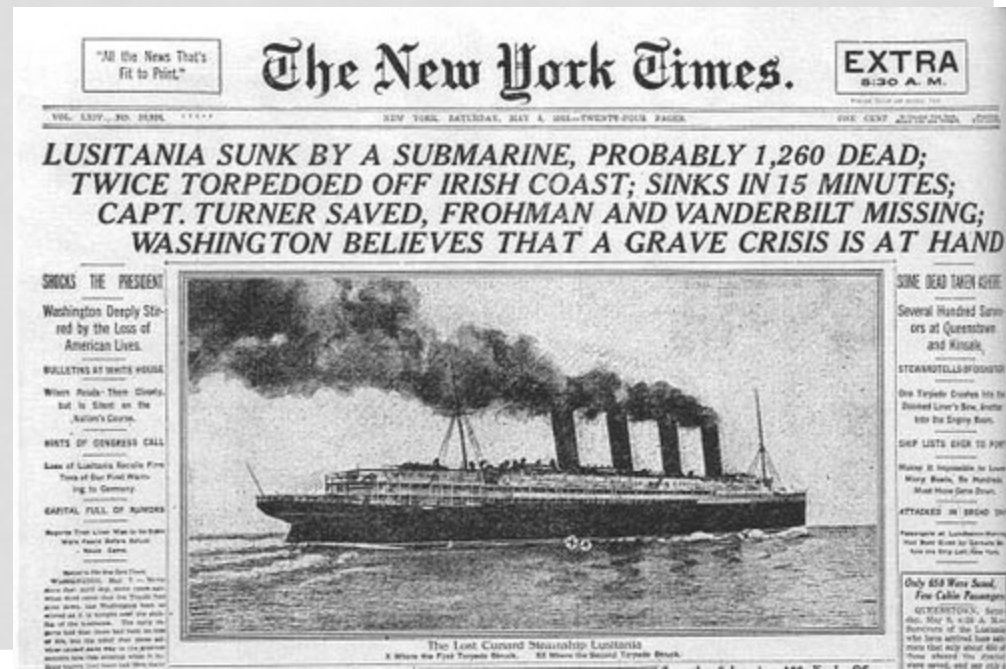
Does censorship still exist in today's newspapers? Can you think of any examples?

What amendment does the use of censorship violate?

Is there ever a time where a government restricting people from expressing their opinion is appropriate?



How would each of these headline be different today?



MODERN DAY NEWSPAPERS

While this lesson focused on news events that occurred before other news media like the television and internet were widely used or even invented, we cannot imply that newspapers are no longer used, as evidenced by this shot of multiple news headlines from 9/11. We will be exploring more recent newspaper styles and using the newspaper format to explore current events later in this Unit. We will even confront the issue of whether or not the newspaper industry has a future, or if it will give way to other news formats.

