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FOUNDING PARTNER/PRESIDENT

## **ABOUT XTRA WEEKLY**

Based on myriad conversations with teachers, principals, curriculum leaders and superintendents, we recognized the need for a comprehensive and targeted critical reading/thinking skills curriculum that would address the dearth of nonfiction, current events reading materials used in schools across the nation.

With encouragement from seasoned education professionals, XTRA Weekly was created 14-years ago to provide articles published by national media companies that are easy to access online, easy to use and manage, and address topics of interest to students in Grades 3-8.

Our 32 weekly lesson plans are common core standards-based, with a focus on reading, writing and speaking activities that address higher-order thinking skills.

Feedback from our XTRA Weekly customers consistently tout each of the lessons' ability to:

- provide critical background information for students – a key contributor to enhancing reading comprehension;
- enable students to practice a variety of learning styles and skills – reading, writing and speaking;
- enhance students' knowledge of current events on a weekly basis.

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## **What is XTRA Weekly?**

- XTRA Weekly is an interactive literacy curriculum that uses current articles from a variety of national newspapers to present topics of interest that serve as a basis for activities that engage the student and encourage development of critical-thinking skills and greater literacy.
- Lessons are based on Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and on a higher-order thinking skills framework developed by educators at San Diego Unified School District.
- Articles and lessons are delivered each week for both Level I (designed for grades 3–5) and Level II (designed for grades 6–8).
- Step-by-step instructions guide instructors through preparation and presentation of lessons and extension activities.

## **Who uses XTRA Weekly?**

- XTRA Weekly is geared for in-school and after-school programs serving students in grades 3–8. It can be used effectively with both small and large groups of students.

## **How is XTRA Weekly accessed?**

- XTRA Weekly is Internet-delivered and accessible 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- Instructors set up usernames and passwords to gain access to new lessons weekly throughout the school year.
- Articles, lessons, and instructions are provided in an attractive, easy-to-open, printable pdf format.

## **What do schools receive with a one-school-year subscription to XTRA Weekly?**

- One-year subscription includes access to 32 weeks of lessons during the school year (mid-September through late May) at each of the two levels (64 total lessons).
- All lessons are archived throughout the school year, so the materials for any lesson from that school year can be accessed at any time before June.
- All components are labeled Level I or Level II with no grade-level designation; both levels are included with each site subscription and can be used interchangeably according to aptitudes and interests of students.
- Each lesson includes five elements (each downloadable separately to be used as best fits the needs of the individual after-school site):
  1. **Newspaper Article** – an article of current and high interest from the McClatchy-Tribune news service. All paragraphs are numbered for ease of reference by instructors and students.
  2. **Student Questions** – 5 questions designed to teach students vocabulary and higher-order thinking and reading skills.

3. **Teacher Answer Key** – contains answers to questions posed to students and cites applicable content and skill standards for each question.
4. **For The Instructor** – step-by-step directions for planning and preparing for presentation of lesson questions and extension activities, including tie-in websites, supplies needed, time requirements, and warm-up activities.
5. **Extension Activities** – a set of activities linked to the article content, geared to stimulate students to improve their literacy through writing, discussion, drawing, and other entertaining activities. Includes a weekly ELL activity and parent/guardian involvement activity.

### **Questions?**

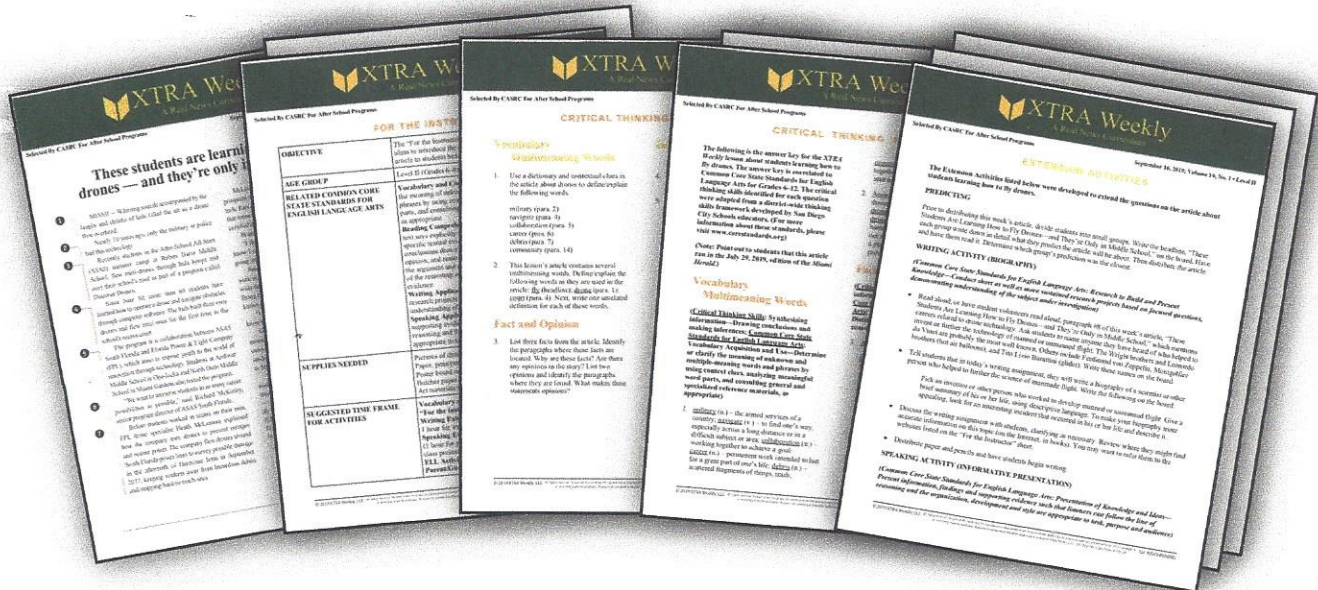
Visit our website at [www.xtraweekly.com](http://www.xtraweekly.com) or email [mark@xtraweekly.com](mailto:mark@xtraweekly.com).

## An integrated curriculum geared for students in Grades 3-5 and 6-8

Using current, high-interest nonfiction articles from national newspapers to engage students in reading, writing, and critical thinking

- Aligned to Common Core Standards for ELA
- Available weekly – 32 issues (64 lessons)
- Two grade levels: Level I (3-5), Level II (6-8)
- Download via internet with 24/7 accessibility

### Lesson Elements



**Newspaper Article -**  
An article of current and high-interest from national newspapers

**Student Questions -**  
Five questions designed to teach students vocabulary and higher-order thinking and reading skills

**Extension Activities -**  
A set of activities linked to the article content, geared to improve students' literacy

**For the Instructor -**  
Step-by-step suggestions for planning and presenting each lesson

**Teacher Answer Key -**  
Answers to questions posed on the Student Questions sheet along with citations of applicable content