

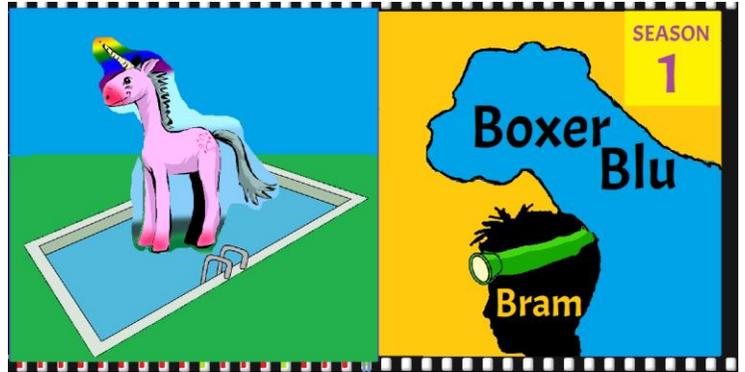
Little News Ears

Lesson Plan Suggestions

BoxerBlu & Bram – News for 4 Year-Olds

Season 1 – Episode 20 – August 1, 2019

Keywords: pool floats, unicorns, money, reindeer, The United Kingdom, Prince Harry



Item #1 – ‘Federal Reserve lowers interest rates for first time in more than a decade

Authors: Stephen Gandel

Source: CBS News

Link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fed-rate-cut-decision-federal-reserve-cuts-interest-rates-for-first-time-in-more-than-a-decade-today-2019-07-31/>

Activities – Social Studies - Economics – Learn about Borrowing Money

Preparation: Using tokens or play money, create a simple ‘school shop.’ Have the students become used to how the shop works, perhaps over a few days.

1. Pick something that you (as a teacher) already have access to, but the students have never seen it before. In other words, it is ‘a big prize.’
2. Introduce the ‘big prize’ in the school shop.
3. Explain how the ‘big prize’ is much more expensive than anyone can buy in the class.
4. Explain to students what *borrowing* is by giving examples of students borrowing toys or other things from each other.
5. Ask them if they want to borrow money to acquire the ‘big prize.’
6. Explain to the students that you can *lend* them money for the prize, if they pay *interest*.
7. At a later point, such as the next day, ask the students to pay for this thing (plus interest).
8. Review the concept periodically over time.

Item #2 – Title: ‘America’s Next Top Pool Float’

Author: Sanam Yar

Source: New York Times

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/30/style/winter-pool-floats.html>

Activities – STEAM – Engineering – Design the Best Pool Float

Materials: balloons, pipe cleaners, straws, corks, popsicle sticks, basin or baby pool

1. Challenge your students to design ‘the best’ pool float
2. Share with your students a simple rubric, such as:

	1	2	3
Creativity	1 or fewer ideas	2 ideas	3 new ideas
Buoyancy (stays on the water appropriately)	Sinks	A little too deep	Floats like a boat
Durability (won't pop when bumps into other objects)	Pops	Deflating	Strong!

3. Test the floats and have fun.

Item #3 – ‘More than 200 reindeer found dead of starvation in the Arctic, scientists say’

Author: Joshua Bote

Source: USA Today

Link: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2019/07/30/over-200-reindeer-starved-death-arctic-climate-change/1868015001/>

Activity – STEAM – Science - Zoology – Wild Deer

Item #4 - ‘Prince Harry says he is only having two children ‘maximum’ for the sake of the planet’

Author: Jack Guy

Source: CNN

Link: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/30/uk/prince-harry-babies-scli-intl/index.html>

Activity – STEAM – Science – Biology - Overpopulation

Materials: Fish bowl, toy fish, toy fish food.

Preparation: Prepare a quantity of toy fish that is more than the quantity of toy fish food.

1. Teach the students that the focus of the lesson is the concept of *overpopulation*.
2. Demonstrate a fish bowl where there are too many fish and too little food.
3. Ask the students what would happen to the fish in this scenario.
4. Relate this to Prince Harry not wanting to have more than two children.
5. Ask the students to draw a picture of different animals (by choice of the students) who do not have enough food.

Item #5– Title: ‘Pair of professors builds a set of fluorescent pink seesaws across the US-Mexico border’

Author: Fox News

Source: MSN News

Link: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/pair-of-professors-builds-a-set-of-fluorescent-pink-seesaws-across-the-us-mexico-border/vi-AAF4MFS>

Activity – STEAM – Science – Physics Exploring a Seesaw

1. Bring a seesaw into the classroom (or bring your students outside to see one)
2. Ask your students what makes a seesaw work.
3. By safely putting more than one child at the end of a seesaw (or applying other downward force, as appropriate), invite your students to explore what makes a seesaw ‘choose’ one side to go down over the other.
4. If appropriate, discuss *gravity*.