

## Lesson Plan Suggestions

**BoxerBlu & Bram** – News for 4 Year-Olds & Up

**Season 1 – Episode 70** – May 14, 2020

**Keywords:** Library of Congress, coffee filters, art, llamas, Belgium, religion, djs, Covid-19



### Item #1 – ‘From Coffee Filter to Safety Mask, in a Hurry’

Authors: Christopher F. Schuetze

Source: NYT

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/10/business/coffee-filter-mask-melitta.html>

**Activities – STEAM – Engineering** Ergonomics: Designing the Perfect Bean Bag Cushion

Materials: foam bits, such as [memory foam](#)

Teddy bear or similar toy for each child

old pillow case for each child

cardboard

scissors

stapler

pebbles

instructions for making ‘doll chairs,’ such as [these](#).

1. After learning about the idea of *ergonomics* (making things ‘better’ for humans) ask your students what kind of *chair* they’d like for their favorite toy to have to become more comfortable. Brainstorm with each one and give the students choices like: tall, short, plush, and hard.
2. You can also share different types of chairs [for a little inspiration](#).
3. Once the students have designed their chair and made their chairs the question to answer is, ‘How can we make this chair more comfortable for my special toy?’
4. Have the students create a cushion for the chair using scissors, a stapler, pebbles, and the old pillow case. Students could choose:
  - A small cushion with only foam bits
  - A small cushion with only pebbles (for stuffed animals that have back problems?)
  - A small cushion with 50% foam bits and 50% pebbles.
5. Afterwards, ask the students to evaluate how their chair and cushion met or didn’t meet their expectations. What could they do better next time?

### Item #2 – Title: ‘Library Of Congress Unveils Open-Source Sampling Tool Called DJ Citizen’

Author: Rachel Martin

Source: NPR

Link: <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/30/848179339/library-of-congress-unveils-open-source-sampling-tool-called-dj-citizen>

**App – Crayola DJ**

**Item #3 – Title: ‘How llamas could hold the key to combatting Covid-19’**

**Author: Nic Robertson**

**Source: CNN**

**Link:** <https://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2020/05/12/belgium-ghent-llama-antibody-coronavirus-robertson-pkg-intl-hnk-vpx.cnn/video/playlists/coronavirus-intl/>

**Activities – STEAM – Biology – Microbiology – Meet the Germs**

**Item #4– ‘A Drive-By Art Show Turns Lawns and Garages into Galleries’**

**Author: Stacey Stowe**

**Source: The New York Times**

**Link** <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/11/arts/design/drive-by-art-long-island.html>

**Activities – Covid-19 Drive-By Exhibition**

1. For the end of the year or other special occasion, ask your students to drop off works that they want to share.
2. If appropriate, ask students / parents to make large posters that are linked to the works of art.
3. Ask for a few parent volunteers.
4. Choose an appointed time and location to display student artwork.
5. Parents drive by in parade format

**Item #5 - ‘Supreme Court Takes On Employment Bias at Religious Schools’**

**Author: Adam Liptak**

**Source: NYT**

**Link:** <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/11/us/supreme-court-religious-schools.html>

**Activity – Social Studies – Government and Politics – How the Supreme Court Works**