

Teaching News Is Elementary

November 6, 2015

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

Materials you will need for this lesson: The Seattle Times e-Edition, Internet/library for research.

Article: Pike Place Market's gum wall getting scrub down, fresh start
Page: NW Wednesday, B1 and B7
Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:

Look at the title and the photographs. What do you know about the gum wall? Have ever been? Would you want to? Why or why not? Why do you think it's getting a scrub down and a fresh start?

Vocabulary:

Read the following quotes and determine the meaning of the word based on how it's used in the sentence:

"Crawford said the PDA estimates 1 million pieces of gum are **adhered** to the walls of Post Alley, and the buildup is in some places 6 inches thick. The cleaning job is expected to cost \$4,000."

(stuck or attached firmly to something)

"It was never part of the **charter** or the history of the Market to have the walls covered with gum,' she said. 'Gum is made of chemicals, sugar, **additives**. Things that aren't good for us. I can't imagine it's good for brick.'"

(charter: a document issued by a government that gives rights to a person or group)

(additive: something (such as a chemical) that is added in small amounts to a substance to improve it in some way)

"The PDA hopes that fresh start **hinders** gum-wall sprawl. In recent years, Crawford said gum has advanced to new turf 'far beyond the original wall.'"

(to stop (someone) from doing something)

Journal Writing Prompts:

"Her theory: 'It's so gross,' she said. 'People don't actually want to touch or get near the gum wall. They're looking for empty surfaces.'

The PDA plans to place more public art in the alleyway and hopes having 20 years of gum removed will keep future visitors more targeted when in placing their gum."

Would you place a piece gum on the gum wall before it gets cleaned? Why or why not? What type of public art do you think would be good to place in the alleyway? Why would that type of art be better than gum? Describe the art and draw a picture in your journal.

Discussion Questions:

Review the excerpt and discuss the following questions:

"'We want to weigh it,' she said.

Crawford said the gum needs to be cleaned off the walls to preserve the historic buildings in the Market district.

'It was never part of the charter or the history of the Market to have the walls covered with gum,' she said. 'Gum is made of chemicals, sugar, additives. Things that aren't good for us. I can't imagine it's good for brick.'"

How much do you think the removed gum will weigh? Do you agree that the gum should be removed to preserve the historic buildings? Why or why not? How do you think the chemicals in the gum have affected the brick? Is there a better substance or decoration which could be placed on the brick?

Small group discussion and activity:

"Meantime, the Market is holding a photo contest on its Facebook page, where people can vote on favorite gum-wall pictures."

What type of photo do you think will win the contest? How could a unique photo stand out from the rest? Visit the "Gum Wall" Facebook page to submit a photo or vote for your favorite.

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