

Celebrating International Literacy Day - Sept. 8

Literacy Day

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been at the forefront of global literacy efforts since 1946, advancing the vision of a literate world for all. As part of that mission, UNESCO established September 8 as International Literacy Day with the first celebration occurring on that date in 1967. Since that time, International Literacy Day celebrations have taken place annually around the world to remind the public of the importance of literacy.

Despite progress, literacy challenges persist. Globally, at least 750 million youth and adults still cannot read and write. Embracing linguistic diversity in education and literacy development is key to addressing these literacy challenges and helping to achieve the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, one of which specifically states, "Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to improving people's lives and sustainable development."

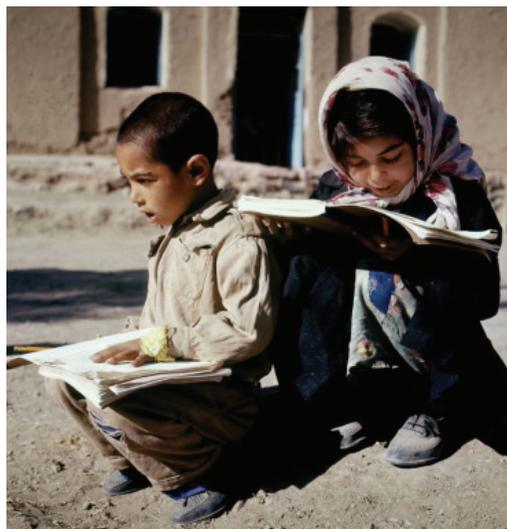


Image source: UNESCO.org

Newspaper Activities:

- Find an interesting photo in the newspaper, then practice your language skills by writing your own headline and/or short article to match the image.
- As you read the newspaper, circle words you do not understand and try to figure out the meaning of each from its context. Check to see if you are correct by looking up the definitions in the dictionary.
- Share a story with your local newspaper about how being literate has impacted your life.

Literacy is a driver for sustainable development in that it enables greater participation in the labor market, improves child and family health and nutrition, reduces poverty and expands life opportunities.

International Literacy Day 2019 will highlight "***Literacy and Multilingualism.***"

One multilingual resource to explore is **Unite for Literacy** at www.uniteforliteracy.com. This site has more than 100 original ebooks carefully crafted to connect with young children and their families. Books are written in English and Spanish and include audio narration in English and 28 world languages.

Additionally, many digital and online newspapers now have the capability to translate or narrate the news into other languages.

Looking for a way to celebrate International Literacy Day? Consider volunteering to help someone else learn how to read and write.

Newspapers, a cultural and vital part of American life, can help newcomers acquire literacy skills and useful community information at the same time.

Consider supporting literacy in our local community. Join this newspaper's efforts to increase literacy and understanding by becoming a Newspaper in Education sponsor!