



LESSON IDEAS for PRESS MAN'S HATS

Submitted by John Millett, The Chronicle-Herald, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Pressmen's hats and state standards? Anyone that has ever done this exercise realizes that there are lessons on:

(1) Social Studies (history of why the hats were developed) one fold ends up being like a mitre, the hat that a bishop or pope wears, another is like a "wedge" a hat that someone in the air force wears

(2) Health (protects hair from grease and dirt, running water for showers and baths not common years ago)

(3) Math (as you are folding hats you have shapes like triangles, squares, rectangles, pentagons, fold paper in half)

(4) Science (your first fold is "as if you were making a giant paper airplane". You could stop and have a newspaper airplane-flying contest)

(5) Technology (necessity is the mother of invention and that is why these hats were made)

(6) Art, (the hat can also be made into a boat, a cat hat, an Easter basket and be decorated with designs and color)

(7) Education and Careers (one hat formed in this exercise is a "mortarboard" that one wears when you finish high school or university)

(8) Language Arts (you can read your hats before you start and after you finish)

and probably more lessons if I thought about it. I'm sure that some of the above must meet someone's state standards. As a matter of fact, I think that "press operators hats," as I call them, are one of the greatest "across the curriculum" activities that we have and if you visit classrooms like I frequently do, it is one of the best activities you can do with kids from grades 3-6.