



## **Activity Treasure Chest**

### **Newspapers and Magazines**



**Purpose:** To help Scouts gather information on a topic, consider how the topic is presented in the media (local, national and/or international) and the impact this has on the opinions that will be formed in the public.

**Development Stage:**

- Identifying the problems
- Developing Awareness
- Measuring change

**Instructions:**

- The Scouts and leaders should bring in a wide variety of newspapers and magazines relating to aspects of their Gift for Peace.
- Leaders prepare a list of key topics to be investigated in pieces of cards
- Each topic card is placed in the centre of a display board.
- Scouts then look through all the papers / magazines and cut out anything about the topics that they find – eg articles; headlines; stories; photos; adverts etc.
- The relevant items are then placed on the board around the topic card and added to as more develop.
- Once all of the publications have been looked at / the time for the task is up, Scouts discuss the results of their findings by considering the following questions:
  - How are different topics viewed by different media?
  - How much coverage is given to different topics?
  - Is there a difference of opinion in locally, nationally and internationally?

**Alternatives:** One topic could be chosen to be followed over several weeks in the media so that changes in attitudes / reporting of the topic can be traced. This can also help the Scouts to explore papers and magazines that they would not normally read.

**Equipment Needed:** A wide range of newspapers and magazines, display boards and cards with topics on.