From A Different Angle

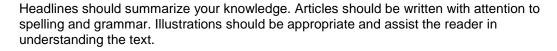# To The Student

Student Activity

In your work group, you will be creating a series of 19th century European newspaper pages—not necessarily all the same date—that the esteemed Russian chemist Mendeleev might have read while he was developing his periodic table of the chemical elements. The front page(s) should include descriptions of, or references to, significant world events. These articles could discuss liberal politics in Britain, France, and Italy. They could also speak to how school attendance is affected by industrialization of the workplace and trends in social science and philosophy. This will show your general knowledge of European history in the late 19th century. Remember that most newspapers would not have had daily news, so it is not necessary that the events reported have occurred on the same date.

The editorial page(s) should include several "Letters to the Editor" that indicate your level of understanding of significant social trends and the public's reactions to changes occurring at this time. Letters might discuss relations in Russia between serfs and landowners, effects of the industrial revolution on the agrarian way of life in Europe, the goals of the women's movement, the changing roles and status of Jews, or the struggle with new ideas of constitutionalism.

Advertisements should indicate new products available and transportation trends. The Trans-Siberian Railway would certainly have an ad in this paper. A 19th century European culture page should include reference to famous people, including politicians, writers, artists, and their contributions. Perhaps there could be a feature story on the scandalous depiction of Polynesian women by Impressionist painters. Advertisements and society pages will show your understanding of the cultural climate during this late 19th century period.

You will have a week of class time to complete this project. Group members should take responsibility for portions of the research and writing. Your group may need to work outside of class, although much of the research can be done individually. Some information will come from your class notes. Other information is available in the school's media center.

Headlines should summarize your knowledge. Articles should be written with attention to spelling and grammar. Illustrations should be appropriate and assist the reader in understanding the text.

The final format for the newspaper pages should be the decision of your teacher. Some groups will have easy access to a desktop publishing program, such as Adobe PageMaker, Claris Works, or QuarkXpress. Other groups may produce newspaper pages in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect. The application need not be electronic. Cutting and pasting text and images on poster board may be perfectly acceptable.