

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Water Underground!

An enormous underground supply of water has been discovered in Kenya, which officials believe can greatly improve the lives of people in the poor East African nation. Currently, 17 million Kenyans lack access to safe drinking water (out of a population of roughly 41 million), and 28 million lack adequate sanitation for toilets and sewage, according to the United Nations. The vast underground supply of water could improve these conditions and also help water crops and livestock. Three underground supply areas — called aquifers — were found through cooperation between the Kenya government and the U.N. Water is important to people in many ways. In the eEdition, find a story about activities people or businesses do. Write a paragraph describing all the ways water is needed or affects the activity. Discuss ideas as a class.

Common Core State Standards: Writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly; conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

2 Ugly Animals

The Ugly Animal Preservation Society has concluded that the world's most disgusting animal is the blobfish, a jelly-like creature with a sagging and sad-looking face. Living at depths of 2,000 to 4,000 feet off the coast of Australia, it's under threat from fishing, because even though it can't be eaten by humans, it gets caught in fishing nets. The other ugly animal "finalists" chosen in an online poll include the kakapo, a New Zealand flightless parrot; the axototl, a Mexican salamander; and the proboscis monkey, which has a large nose and pot belly. People who save animals pay a lot of attention to cute species, the society says, but ugly animals are just as deserving. In the eEdition or online, find a photo of an endangered wild animal. Brainstorm ways this animal could be protected. Then show your ideas in a comic strip for the eEdition. Use wild animals as the characters in your comic, if you like.

Common Core State Standards: Integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

3 Homeless Man Finds \$\$\$ and Returns It

A homeless man in Boston, Mass., recently found a backpack containing tens of thousands of dollars in cash and traveler's checks. He could have kept it to improve his life, but he turned it in. No matter how desperate he was, he said, he would not have kept "even a penny." Inside the backpack, which he found in a shopping mall, was \$2,400 in U.S. currency, almost \$40,000 in traveler's checks and a passport from the Asian nation of China. People often make news for helping others or "doing the right thing." In the eEdition or online, find an example. Then write a personal letter to the person, thanking him/her and explaining why the deed was important.

Common Core State Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions.

4 Adverb Search

The Search and Advanced Search features of the eEdition are a great tool for finding information. They also are a great tool for building vocabulary and word power. Adverbs are colorful words that can make your writing stronger and more effective. Adverbs describe the action of verbs or the descriptions of adjectives. Many adverbs end in the letters "ly." Use the search features of the eEdition to find adverbs used to make writing more effective or colorful. Remember to leave a space after the "ly" when you search to make sure you find only words where those letters are at the end of the word. Share words as a class. Then use three in complete sentences.

Common Core State Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; producing clear and coherent writing; using technology tools to enhance learning and increase creativity; becoming proficient with the use of technology.

5 Balloon Voyage Falls Short

Jonathan Trappe hoped to be the first person to cross the Atlantic Ocean using a cluster of helium balloons. But after lifting off from the state of Maine, he got only as far as Newfoundland, 350 miles away in Canada. The American had trouble controlling his more than 300 balloons and notified Canadian officials before touching down safely just south of York Harbor. He had not yet reached the Atlantic

Ocean. Trappe is no stranger to cluster balloons, like those in the animated movie "Up." He has used them to lift a house and in 2010 used them to cross the English Channel in Europe. Some people are always looking for adventures. In the eEdition find an activity you would like to have for an adventure, or a place you would like to have an adventure. Write the word "adventure" down the side of a sheet of paper and write a poem, rap or rhyme about your adventure. Start each line with a letter of the word "adventure." Read your poems aloud. For additional fun, add an illustration or drawing.

Common Core State Standards: Demonstrating understanding of figurative language; writing narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events; applying knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts.

A Teaching Tool
For Tomorrow

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 Impact of Comets Leads to Life

Icy comets colliding with a planet, even an icy one, can generate amino acids, the building blocks of life, according to a new study. The findings may help explain the origins of life on Earth. The study shows that when icy comets hit planets, the impact creates molecules that can be transformed by the heat of the impact into amino acids. "This is the first step toward life," said a researcher. "The next step is to work out how to go from an amino acid to even more complex molecules, such as proteins." Biology is the study of life and living organisms, and biology makes news far more often than some people realize. Search the eEdition for a week and keep a log of stories and photos that involve biology in some way. For each entry, write how biology is involved.

Common Core State Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

2 Fewer Fat Teens

The number of obese American teens has leveled off, and the rate of overweight teens has been dropping, a recent study has concluded. Reporting in the journal *Pediatrics*, researchers say they have seen a reversal of the trend in which diets were getting worse, physical activity was declining and obesity was increasing among adolescents. Teens report eating more fruits and vegetables and being more active, while eating fewer sweets, drinking fewer sweetened beverages and spending less time watching TV. The news is good, but "we still have a ways to go," the lead researcher said, noting that most teens still are not getting enough exercise or eating enough vegetables and fruits. There are many ways to improve health and fitness. In the eEdition, find an activity that could provide physical activity and improve fitness. Draw a series of comic strips showing how the activity could be both fun and healthful.

Common Core State Standards: Integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

3 Slavery Reparations

More than a dozen Caribbean nations recently sent delegates to a three-day conference in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to draft a plan seeking slavery reparations from three European countries that benefited from the slave trade. The Caribbean Community is demanding compensation from the governments of Britain, France and the Netherlands because they were active slave traders in the past. Human rights issues often are in the news around the world. In the eEdition or online, find an example. Then write a short editorial summarizing the issue, outlining a way to correct the situation and whether reparations of any kind are called for.

Common Core State Standards: Reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions; writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view.

4 Retail Sales

Americans who are worried about the economy aren't spending much. In response, many businesses across the country have been offering sales to get shoppers into their stores. Look at ads in this week's eEdition to compare shop for something you would like to buy. Some stores may state a sales price, while others might offer a percentage off or give back a rebate. Use your math and research skills to find out what the best offer is on three choices for the item you would like to buy. Then use the Search or Advanced Search features of the eEdition to see how stores are doing, by searching for the phrase "retail sales." Write a paragraph summarizing what you find.

Common Core State Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; producing clear and coherent writing; using technology tools to enhance learning and increase creativity; becoming proficient with the use of technology.

5 A Dad's Sacrifice

A 13-year-old girl in India was so smart in school that she finished high school at age 7, got a college degree at 13 and is now pursuing a master's degree in microbiology at a local university. But that is only part of the remarkable life story of Sushma Verma. Her father sold some of his land to pay for her tuition and Sushma, her parents and three younger siblings now live in a cramped room in the Indian city of

Common Core State Standards: Reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; writing narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events.

Lucknow. Sushma's father, who earns the equivalent of \$3.50 a day doing construction work in Lucknow, sold 10,000 square feet of land for the equivalent of \$400 to cover some of her school fees. The rest of the cost will be paid for by a charity. All over the world, people go to great lengths to go or send children to college. In the eEdition or online, find a story about someone doing something unusual to get a college education. Use what you find to brainstorm an idea for a TV show based on this person's actions. Give your TV show an eye-catching title and write a "treatment" for the plot of the first episode.

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grades 9-12

1 Facebook Wins in Court Case

Use of the “Like” feature on Facebook to show support for a candidate in an election is constitutional, a federal appeals court has ruled. Reversing a lower court judge in the case of *Bland v. Roberts*, the U.S. Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, declared that “Like” is speech protected in the U.S. Constitution, and is “the Internet equivalent of displaying a political sign in one’s front yard.” Freedom of speech is one of five freedoms protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution. As a class, review the other four. Then use the eEdition and Internet to find examples of each of the five freedoms in the news stories from around the country. Write a short opinion column describing which of the First Amendment freedoms affects your life most.

Common Core State Standards: Reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions; writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

2 The Rich Get Richer

Forbes magazine has issued its annual list of the 400 richest Americans. The names have not changed much, but they are a year richer. Helped by strong stock and real estate markets, most of the 400 have seen their fortunes grow. A Forbes editor noted that “the mega rich are mega richer.” The list, once again, was led by Bill Gates of Microsoft, with a net worth of \$72 billion. Warren Buffett of the Berkshire Hathaway investment company was second at \$58.5 billion. Alice Walton of the family that owns Walmart was the top-ranked woman (Number 8) with a net worth of \$33.5 billion. People with great wealth often support charities or causes they believe in. Search the eEdition and Internet for a cause you would support if you were a billionaire. Write a paragraph explaining why you would support this cause and what you would like to do to help.

Common Core State Standards: Writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions.

3 Print, e-Mail, Download

With your eEdition it is important to know how to find the information you need. It is also important to be able to do things with the information once you have found it. Your eEdition toolbar contains three icons that make it easy to use the electronic newspaper. They are “Print,” “e-Mail” and “Download.” Find a story that interests you in your eEdition today. Use the “Print” icon to print out a copy in graphic or text form. Use the “e-Mail” icon to e-mail the story to yourself or your teacher. Use the “Download” icon to download a copy of the file to your computer. Write a paragraph describing how these features of your eEdition make it useful for gathering information.

Common Core State Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; using technology tools to enhance learning and increase creativity; becoming proficient with the use of technology.

4 Low-Cost Flying

Because of an online error, some travelers were lucky enough to buy tickets for as little as \$5 before United Airlines realized the mistake and shut down bookings on its website. United also temporarily halted were reservations by phone. It was an error in filing the fares, the airlines explained, not a problem with the website. How many tickets were sold at the unusually low price is yet to be determined. Air travel and other forms of transportation often are in the news. In the eEdition or online, find two types of transportation. Create a chart comparing the advantages and disadvantages of each type.

Common Core State Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points; using charts, graphs and tables to display information.

5 Biblical Town Unearthed

British archaeologists have unearthed evidence of a Mideast town that thrived in antiquity, and they believe it may be Dalmanutha. That would be significant for scholars of the Bible, because Dalmanutha is mentioned in the Gospel of Mark as the place where Jesus is said to have sailed after performing the miracle of feeding 5,000 people with two fish and five loaves of bread. This is the same area, on the

sea of Galilee in the modern nation of Israel, where a 2,000-year-old boat was found in 1986. Artifacts discovered on the site indicate that the town prospered from the second or first century BCE to the fifth century CE and was home to both Jewish and polytheistic communities. Archaeologists learn about the past by studying the places people lived and the things they used. Think like an archaeologist and search the ads in today’s eEdition. Use what you find to write a short profile of how your community lives, based on the content of the ads.

Common Core State Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

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