

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Yeti May Be a Bear

The yeti, or “abominable snowman,” is occasionally sighted in the Himalaya mountains of Asia. For years, people have wondered just what kind of animal the yeti is, and now scientists think they know. DNA tests on hair samples from two unidentified animals matched those from an ancient polar bear. That has led scientists to think that the yeti is a hybrid mix of polar bears and brown bears, because the species are closely related and are known to interbreed. For years, existence of the yeti was considered a myth, but it is becoming more accepted in scientific circles. Scientists often try to answer questions about wild animals. In the eEdition, find a photo or story of a wild animal. On a sheet of paper, write out five questions you would like answered if you were studying this animal – and why you would want the answers.

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.

2 18-Foot Sea Monster Found

An 18-foot “sea serpent” was found by a swimmer off the coast of California’s Catalina Island. It was a rare oarfish, a long, skinny creature that is usually found in deep waters, far from shore. Found floating near the surface of the sea, the oarfish had apparently died from natural causes. It was tough to move, though. It took 15 or 20 people to pick it up and pull it onto the beach. Oarfish, which can grow to up to 50 feet long, are the world’s largest bony fish. The Catalina fish, and a 13-footer found a week later in nearby Oceanside, were taken to research facilities for study. Fish and oceans are important in many ways. As a class, discuss how oceans are important or valuable to people. Then find photos, words and stories in the eEdition that show some of the ways oceans are important. Print out what you find to create an art collage on “The Value of Oceans.” Share as a class.

Common Core State Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic; using drawings or visual displays to enhance main ideas or points.

3 Be Kind

Every day, in many ways, people do kind and supportive things for other people. On November 13, such acts will get special attention on World Kindness Day. Using your eEdition and the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation’s website – www.actsofkindness.org – come up with ideas for something your class could do in honor of World Kindness Day. As a class, share your ideas. Then pick two or three to follow through on. Devise a plan for how you can make the ideas work. Then start putting them into action!

Common Core State Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarizing points of agreement and disagreement.

4 Use That Index!

The front page Index of your eEdition lets you find information about what is inside the electronic newspaper in an easy way. Click on the Index on Page 1 of today’s eEdition. Then go to the tool bar at the top of the page and find the pull-down that offers readers a Visual or Graphic Mode and a Text Mode. With the Index open, try each mode. What do you see with each mode? What are the advantages of each mode? Finish by writing a complete sentence explaining which mode you think you would use the most.

Common Core State Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development and style are appropriate to the task; using prescribed technology tools for data collection.

5 A Luxury Balloon Ride

If you can afford it, you soon will be able to travel in a giant balloon to see our planet from the stratosphere in the middle region of the atmosphere above the Earth. A new space tourism company is planning flights for as early as 2015 in the “superbly comfortable, luxurious interior” of a modern balloon capsule. For “only” \$75,000 (drinks included), six passengers will join two crew members on a one

and one-half hour flight to reach altitude and then drift for a couple of hours to take in the sights of the Earth below. The flight will end when the balloon is cut loose and the capsule glides back to Earth under an inflated parachute. Taking a balloon ride high up in the atmosphere is an activity many might like. In the eEdition or online, find an unusual activity you would like to try, either in space or here on Earth. Write a short speech telling why you would like to try this activity and what you would gain or learn from it. Deliver your speech to the class.

Common Core State Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions.

A Teaching Tool
For Tomorrow

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 A 9-Year-Old Stowaway

A 9-year-old stowed away on a flight from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Las Vegas, Nevada, raising questions not only about airline procedures, but also about the boy's family. A Minnesota judge has declared the boy a "child in need of protection or services" and decreed that he live away from his family while he and his parents undergo therapy (individual and family). During that time, local and school officials will determine just what kind of help he needs. How long the "out-of-home placement" would last was unclear, but the parents were granted liberal visitation privileges. Children's safety issues often make news. In the eEdition or online, find a story involving the safety of children. Write a summary of the safety issue, and what should be done to address or resolve it.

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.

2 Tribute Shuts Mall

Someone sprinkled a white powdery substance in a mall in Sarasota, Florida, recently, causing the mall to be evacuated and shut down for two hours. Then it was learned that the powder was not a toxic substance, but a woman's ashes, spread by her grieving fiancé. After she died, he had chosen places to spread her ashes that were special to the couple, including a LensCrafters store in the mall. When the ashes were discovered, police and Hazmat crews were called in to determine if they were hazardous. Now the mall and Sarasota Fire Department may seek to recover the costs of those efforts from the man. People often seek to honor loved ones by actions or memorials at special places. Scan the eEdition today for a place someone might choose to honor someone they love. Write a paragraph explaining why someone might choose this place, and how they would express love through it.

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.

3 Search for Sports News!

Every day, your eEdition allows you to find stories that interest you. Your eEdition also allows you to search recent editions of the electronic newspaper for related stories. Go to the sports section of the eEdition and scan the pages for a story that interests you. Read the story and write a short paragraph summarizing the news and explaining why it interests you. Then use the Advanced Search feature in the toolbar at the top of the page to find other stories on the same athlete or team. Find the stories electronically and read them. Then write a paragraph describing how having the ability to search for recent stories can be a benefit to readers.

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.

4 New Species Discovered

Suriname is just a small country in South America, but its rain forests are home to a great many species that have been unknown to scientists. On a recent expedition, for example, 16 scientists traveled into a remote and uninhabited region and identified 60 new species among the 1,378 plants, fish, insects, birds, mammals and amphibians they found and catalogued. Wildlife often are in the news. In the eEdition or online, find an interesting wild species. Pretend you are a maker of TV documentaries and write a "pitch" letter to a network, telling why this species would be a good subject for a TV show about nature.

Common Core State Standards: Writing narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions.

5 Teen Finds Baby Dinosaur

Students at the Webb Schools outside Los Angeles, California, participate in fossil-hunting as part of their paleontology course, and one of them has made a major find. It's the fossilized skeleton of the smallest, youngest and most complete duck-billed dinosaur of its kind ever found – a plant-eating herbivore that walked the Earth 75 million years ago. The discovery was made in the state of Utah by one

of a group of teenagers prospecting for fossils back in 2009. Now the find is getting worldwide attention, as the student, Kevin Terris, studies rock formations and geology in college. Fossils tell scientists about creatures and plants that lived on Earth millions of years ago. What could future fossil hunters learn about Earth by studying people, animals or plants living today? In teams or pairs, find a person, an animal and a plant in the photos of the eEdition or Internet. For each write a paragraph explaining what future fossils of these living things would tell scientists about lifestyles, habits or habitats today.

Common Core State Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

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grades 9-12

1 Effects of Spanking

Some parents think spanking can improve children's behavior; but a new study suggests the opposite may be true. Researchers report in the journal "Pediatrics" that kids spanked as 5-year-olds are more likely to be aggressive and break rules when they get a little older. These results are similar to earlier studies, but a new finding has surprised experts: Kids tend to score lower in vocabulary tests if they were spanked regularly at age 5. Children's health and development often are in the news, as are different approaches to being a parent. In the eEdition or online, find a story about parenting or how young children develop. Summarize the story in the form of an outline, highlighting the most important points for parents to know.

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.

2 Scout Leader Topples Rocks

A Boy Scout leader intentionally knocked over an ancient desert formation in the Rocky Mountains, and it was even filmed on video. The mushroom-shaped rock formation at Goblin Valley State Park was about 170 million years old, and authorities are considering filing charges against the scout leader. The adults who participated and videoed the knockdown said they did it because the rocks were loose and they feared the formation was dangerous to the teenage boys they were leading. Park officials weren't buying it. "This is not what you do at state parks," one said. Natural attractions in parks and outdoor areas are often protected so that people can see and enjoy them now and in the future. In the eEdition or online, find a natural attraction you would like to see. Write a short opinion column for the eEdition explaining why you would want to see this attraction and how it should be protected.

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.

3 \$1.6 million Violin

A violin believed to have been played on the Titanic on its last voyage has been auctioned for more than \$1.6 million. Corroded by sea water and unplayable, it is believed to have belonged to bandmaster Wallace Hartley, who was among the more than 1,500 victims who died when the liner sank in 1912 after hitting an iceberg. The German instrument is believed to have been found at sea with the musician's body. Items connected to historic or popular events often are coveted by collectors. In the eEdition or online, find an event with historic significance or popular appeal. Brainstorm an ad for items connected to the event that collectors in the future might want.

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.

4 Let's Go Shopping!

Your eEdition contains everything included each day in the print edition of the newspaper. That includes ads as well as stories and photos. In today's eEdition, find an ad for a cell phone or electronic device you would like to have. Then search the eEdition for other ads offering the same item for sale and compare prices and the locations of stores. Write a paragraph explaining where you would purchase the item and why. Finish by writing a paragraph describing how using an eEdition is different from print for finding products to buy, along with the advantages and disadvantages.

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.

5 Raiders 'Liberating' Minks

The animal rights movement has resumed a decades-old guerrilla war against the fur industry with night raids on U.S. mink farms that have "liberated" 7,300 of the animals since July. The pelts of the liberated minks are estimated to be worth more than \$770,000 if they were used for fur products such as jackets or stoles. Fur industry spokespeople call these raids – plus two in Canada

that freed 1,300 animals – "terrorism" by "extremists." The activists insist they are upholding animal rights. Driven by demand from the nations of China and Russia, the price of a mink pelt has zoomed in the United States, turning a mostly backyard business into a \$350-million-a-year industry. Animal rights issues have caused heated debates all over the country. As a class, use the eEdition and Internet to find stories about different animal rights causes. Pick one and hold a class debate. Finish by taking a vote on the issue and reporting the results in the form of an eEdition news story.

Common Core State Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas.

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