

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Jeter Ending His Career

This will be Derek Jeter's final season in professional baseball. Since 1995, he has been the New York Yankees' shortstop, batting second and compiling 3,316 hits while earning more than \$250 million. It's beginning to "feel more like a job," the 39-year-old Jeter said, explaining his decision to hang up his cleats at the end of this season. "I could not be more sure. I know it in my heart." When people retire from sports or another career, they often look for new activities or things to do. In the eEdition, find an activity that Derek Jeter might want to do after retiring. It can be something fun, something serious to help the community or a new job or career. Write a paragraph explaining your choice of activity, why Derek Jeter might like to try it and how he would benefit from it.

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

2 A Tusk in Seattle

Construction workers in Seattle, Washington, recently came across something extraordinary. Digging in a private lot, they came across a tusk that experts in a nearby museum identified as having belonged to a mammoth. Mammoths are an extinct, hairy animal related to elephants that died out at the end of the Earth's last Ice Age. They roamed Washington State and the U.S. Northwest more than 10,000 years ago. As a class, discuss why scientists study fossils and ancient animals to learn more about the Earth's past. Then think like a future fossil hunter and find an animal in the eEdition that might interest scientists in the future. Write a paragraph describing what future scientists could learn about life on Earth today by studying a fossil of the animal you selected.

Common Core State Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking.

3 Movie Search

On Sunday, March 2, the Oscar awards will be given out for the top movie achievements of the last year. It's a night when the movie industry celebrates the best and most popular movies, and entertainment writers pay a great deal of attention to which movies, actors and actresses might win. Use the search and advanced search features of the eEdition to see how the Oscars are being covered this week. Search for "Oscar" or "movie" or "Academy Award." Finish by writing a paragraph describing what kind of Oscar stories were most common in the eEdition this week.

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; using technology tools to enhance learning.

4 Crocodiles in the Trees!

If you're threatened by a crocodile, climbing a tree might not help. Scientists have concluded that four species of crocodile are able to climb trees above water. Much depends on the creature's size. Those with smaller bodies are able to climb higher and farther out than larger ones, and some have been observed climbing as high as 13 feet off the ground. Scientists who study wildlife often discover interesting things about them. In the eEdition find a species of wildlife in the photos, stories or ads. Make up a comic strip featuring this species doing something unusual — real or made up. Give your comic a cool name and draw two or three strips to share.

Common Core State Standards: Using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points; engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.

5 Kids Hurt by Shopping Carts

An average of 66 American children a day wind up in emergency rooms for injuries sustained in or near shopping carts. Most were children under 4 who fell out of carts — and more than 90 percent of their injuries were to the head. Other injuries were caused by carts tipping over, children running into or falling over carts, and fingers, hands or toes being caught. In the 22 years covered by the study, about 16,500

children were injured seriously enough to be admitted to a hospital. Safety standards for carts should be strengthened, the researchers note, because "these injuries can be prevented." The health and safety of children gets a lot of attention in eEditions because the topic concerns families. As a class, find a health or safety issue in the eEdition or online that is important to kids your age. Discuss why it is important, and how people could be made more aware of it. Finish by designing a health/safety poster highlighting the most important points made in the story or class discussion. Give your poster an eye-catching title and share with the class.

Common Core State Standards: Responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarizing points of agreement and disagreement; integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow

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for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 Ancient Mr. Blue Eyes

The remains of a man who lived in the European region of Spain about 7,000 years ago are challenging what scientists thought about some human traits. By decoding the man's genome, using DNA extracted from a wisdom tooth, Barcelona researchers conclude the man had dark skin, dark hair and blue eyes. The mutation for blue eyes had been thought to have arisen more recently in human history than mutations that caused lighter skin, but this study in the journal *Nature* suggests that in Europe, blue eyes appeared first. The study of DNA has expanded rapidly in recent years, and DNA technology has been a huge help in medicine, crime-solving and other fields. In the eEdition or online, find a story about DNA being used or studied. Read the story closely and write a summary of the key points.

Common Core State Standards: Reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task.

2 Most Valuable Stamp

A postage stamp from a 19th century British colony in South America is apparently the world's most valuable. The 1856 British Guiana One-Cent Magenta stamp broke the auction record for a stamp three times in the past, and is expected to sell for \$10 million to \$20 million when it is auctioned in New York in June. It will be sold through Sotheby's by the estate of John E. du Pont, an heir to a chemical fortune, who was convicted in 1996 of shooting an Olympic wrestler to death. Du Pont died in prison in 2010. Part of the proceeds will go to the Eurasian Pacific Wildlife Conservation Foundation. Wildlife conservation is an issue important to people around the world. In the eEdition or online, find a conservation issue involving habitats or wildlife that interests you. Write a paragraph describing how people might help address the issue or raise money to support the cause.

Common Core State Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking.

3 eEdition Prefixes

Electronic editions allow you to search their content for stories or topics that interest you. This ability to search also can help you build vocabulary and word skills. You can search, for example, to see how many times a word appears in the paper. Or you can search to see how many times a prefix appears. As a class, review how prefixes are added to the front of words to change their meaning. Then search today's eEdition to see how often the prefixes "over" or "under" appear. Remember to leave a space before the prefix when you type it into the search window so that you only get the beginning of words!

Common Core State Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; using charts and graphs to organize and display information.

4 Many Unaware Earth Circles Sun

One in four Americans is unaware that the Earth orbits around the sun, a National Science Foundation survey has found. The researchers also noted that the survey of 2,200 people found only 48 percent believe humans evolved from other animals and only 39 percent have ever heard of the Big Bang theory about the Universe. To students in school, it may seem hard to believe that any American could not know that the Earth orbits around the sun. Draw an editorial cartoon for the eEdition offering a way to educate people about the Earth's orbit, and why it is important to understand.

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

5 CVS Ending Tobacco Sales

CVS Caremark will stop selling cigarettes and other tobacco products – the first national chain of drug stores to do so. "It's the right thing for us to do ... to help people on their path to better health," CVS officials said. CVS will clear its shelves of tobacco products by October 1 and will launch a stop-smoking program for customers this spring. The company is the largest pharmacy chain in the United

Common Core State Standards: Writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information; reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it.

States based on total revenues from prescription sales. It estimates it will lose about \$2 billion a year in sales by dropping cigarettes. Decisions made by businesses make news every day, but not usually for public health reasons. As a class, discuss the CVS move to stop selling cigarettes and whether you think it is a good idea. Are there other products you would not sell if you owned a store? Write an editorial for the eEdition, offering your view on the CVS decision and whether you think it could be a model for other stores and products. Offer details about any stores or products you cite in your editorial.

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grades 9-12

1 Rewriting Mr. Shakespeare

William Shakespeare is considered one of the greatest writers ever in the English language. So it may come as a surprise that the Hogarth Shakespeare publishing house is signing up contemporary authors to update the Bard in new versions of his classic plays. Jo Nesbo, author of a best-selling series of thrillers, has agreed to prepare a new version of “Macbeth,” Margaret Atwood will do “The Tempest” and Anne Tyler will take on “The Taming of the Shrew.” Each will add a touch of their own style to the rewrites. Get in the spirit of the Hogarth Shakespeare and find a story in the eEdition that interests you. Now rewrite the article in the style of one of your favorite writers. You can pick anyone from Dr. Seuss to Kanye West to Suzanne Collins, who wrote “The Hunger Games.” Read your rewrites aloud – with expression!

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

2 Most Kids Drinking Caffeine

Even if you don't drink coffee, there's a good chance you're drinking plenty of caffeine. A new report shows that three out of four children and teens are getting caffeine through soda and energy drinks, and it's not good for their health. Teens are being hospitalized, some even dying, after consuming highly caffeinated drinks or energy beverages, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control reports. Too much caffeine can cause fast heart-beat, high blood pressure, restlessness, insomnia, nervousness, irritability and muscle tremors. Soda is the most common source of caffeine for kids. As a class, discuss foods and drinks you like that contain caffeine. If you don't know if there's caffeine in them, check the ingredients label. Write a short editorial for the eEdition urging kids your age to know more about the caffeine they consume and how it affects them.

Common Core State Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

3 Oscar Search

On Sunday, March 2, the Oscar awards will be given out for the top movie achievements of the last year. Use the search and advanced search features of the eEdition to see how the Oscars are being covered this week. Search for “Best Picture,” or “Best Actor” or “Best Actress.” Finish by writing a prediction of who will win for Best Picture, Best Actor and Best Actress, based on your search findings. Design a chart or bar graph to show your search results.

Common Core State Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly; defining subject searching and devising a search strategy.

4 Smart Phone Thefts

Because they are small, portable, expensive and easily resold, smart phones are an ideal target for criminals. Consumer Reports estimates that 1.6 million smart phones were stolen in the United States in 2012, and the number has been significantly higher since then. The Federal Communications Commission says nearly one in three robberies involves smart phones today. As a class, discuss possible measures to curb smart phone thefts, including equipping each with a kill-switch device with which you can shut off a stolen phone. Then design a public service ad for the eEdition, detailing ways students and others can protect themselves from smart phone theft.

Common Core State Standards: Integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task.

5 Fined For Killing Birds

An energy company has agreed to pay \$1 million in fines to several conservation groups as part of the U.S. Justice Department's first criminal case against a wind power firm for the deaths of protected birds. Duke Energy pleaded guilty to violating the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act after it was charged with killing 14 golden eagles and dozens of other birds at two wind projects in the western state of Wyoming.

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.

Besides adding to the coffers of conservation groups, the company agreed to put into effect a plan to prevent bird deaths in the future. Birds are often killed when they fly into windmill blades and towers, turbines and power facilities associated with wind projects. Protecting wildlife is an issue that comes up in every state. In the eEdition or online, find a story about efforts to protect a species. Write a summary of the key issues in the story, and whether any of them involve the activities of businesses.

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