

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Antlers That Glow in the Dark?

Thousands of caribou reindeer are hit by cars in the European nation of Finland each year, damaging cars and damaging the animals even more. The Finnish Reindeer Herders Association now thinks it has a solution. In an experiment, the antlers of 20 reindeer have been painted with glow-in-the-dark fluorescent dyes to see whether the colors will reduce the number of collisions between cars and reindeer. If so, more animals with glowing antlers will be introduced to the Lapland region of northern Finland, where herders tend to about 200,000 animals. People often take steps to help animals. In the eEdition or online, find an example of someone helping a wild or tame animal. Pretend you are the animal and write a short poem, rap or rhyme describing how you might feel about being helped.

Common Core State Standards: Demonstrating understanding of figurative language; applying knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts.

2 Volcanoes and Global Warming

Volcanoes can be spectacular when they erupt and send smoke and lava flying. Their smoke also may have played a part in a recent slowing down of global warming around the world. In a new study, scientists say the slowdown may have occurred because the smoke of volcanic eruptions in the last 14 years reflected sunlight that heats the Earth's atmosphere. The scientists made that conclusion after studying the sun-blocking effects of sulphur dioxide gas contained in smoke from at least 17 volcanoes. Global warming occurs when heat is trapped by pollution in the Earth's atmosphere. It can affect people, animals and the environment by raising temperatures, causing droughts or causing more severe weather. In the eEdition, find a photo of an outdoor scene. Study the photo closely and write a paragraph describing how it could change if the pictured place became hotter and drier.

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.

3 Conjunction 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. Conjunctions are words that connect words, phrases, clauses or sentences. Examples include "and," "but," "if" or "when." Use the search features of the eEdition to find which conjunctions are used most often in news writing. Search for "and," "but," "if" or "when" and two other conjunctions you choose as a class. Share findings as a class and discuss. Then write a paragraph describing how having search functions makes the eEdition an effective tool for learning or gathering information.

Common Core State Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task; using technology tools to enhance learning; conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

4 Home-Plate Collisions

A new Major League Baseball season is about to begin, and a new rule is about to take effect as an experiment. The rule would prohibit the worst collisions at home plate. If an umpire determines a runner has initiated contact with whoever is covering home plate, he can declare the runner out. If a catcher blocks the runner's pathway without holding the ball, the runner can be called safe. The collision rule has caused a lot of talk and debate among baseball fans, because it changes the way the game has been played for years. Talk about the rule as a class. Then draw a comic strip for the eEdition, showing the rule in action, for better or worse.

Common Core State Standards: Using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points; responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarizing points of agreement and disagreement.

5 Shrek Theme Parks

The four animated Shrek movies have been hugely popular, selling \$3.5 billion worth of tickets around the world. Now a chain of Shrek theme parks is being planned. The first, called Shrek's Far Far Away Adventure, is due to open next year in the European city of London in Great Britain, with five others planned for Europe, Asia and America. The parks will be based on the adventures of the popular green

ogre and will feature actors, puppets, animation, theater and lots of fun. Theme parks often are inspired by movie characters, stories or even people from real life. In the eEdition find a person or movie that a theme park could be built around. Write a paragraph summarizing what would be in the park, why people would enjoy it and what it should be called. Draw a picture of what your park might look like so that people would want to visit.

Common Core State Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 Pizza For Warriors

Scientists at a U.S. military lab in Massachusetts say they are closing in on a recipe for pizza that doesn't need to be frozen or refrigerated. And, they say, it doesn't taste bad. That's good news for U.S. soldiers who serve in the field in war zones or other areas. Soldiers in the field are fed preserved Meals Ready to Eat – called MREs – and up to now the moisture in tomatoes and cheese has stymied efforts to come up with an MRE pizza. Researchers now say they can do this by tweaking levels of acidity in pizza and adding ingredients that absorb water. Many kinds of inventions help U.S. soldiers do their jobs. In the eEdition or online, find a photo or story of military activity. Pick one item involved in the activity and write how its invention made soldiers safer, more comfortable or better at performing their missions.

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 Payoff For a Dog Walk

A Northern California couple who were out walking their dog stumbled across a treasure of rare gold coins worth as much as \$10 million. Most of the 1,427 coins from 1847 to 1894 were in mint condition and were buried inside eight rusting cans under an old tree. The face value of the \$5, \$10 and \$20 coins adds up to only \$27,000, but some are so rare that coin experts say they could fetch as much as \$1 million each. The finders – a middle-aged couple – say they have no idea how the coins got there. They plan to keep some, sell the others and continue living the way they have lived. They also plan to make donations to charities. If you came into a large sum of money and wanted to donate to a charity that helps people, which would you choose? In the eEdition, find a group that helps people, or a problem that needs to be corrected. Write a paragraph detailing why you would donate to the group or cause.

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.

3 Gun Control Book

Former U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords and her husband, astronaut Mark Kelly, have written a book addressing gun violence. Titled "Enough," the book will be published in June by the Scribner company. Gifford, an Arizona Democrat, was the victim of a 2011 shooting that left her partially paralyzed, with impaired vision and slurred speech. She left Congress the following year. Gun control is a hot-button issue in American politics because people hold strong views for and against it. As a class, divide into teams and debate whether some types of guns should be controlled to reduce gun violence. Take a vote at the end and show the results as a pie chart.

Common Core State Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; organizing data using concrete objects, pictures, tallies, tables, charts, diagrams and graphs.

4 Search For the 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. As a class or with a partner, go to the sports or entertainment section of the eEdition and scan the pages for a story that interests you. Read one story and write a short paragraph summarizing the news and explaining why it interests you. Then use the Advanced Search feature to find stories on the same subject. Find the stories electronically and read them. Then discuss how having the ability to search for recent stories can be a benefit to readers.

Common Core State Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarizing points of agreement and disagreement; conducting short research projects that build knowledge.

5 Fewer Toddlers Obese

The obesity rate among 2- to 5-year-olds in the United States has declined by 43 percent in the last decade. That's good – if surprising – news, considering recent studies have concluded that overweight children are likely to be overweight adults. And it's an "exciting" development, researchers report in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The researchers attribute the decline to increased aware-

ness of the negative impact of obesity on health; a drop in consumption of high-calorie sugary beverages, and more mothers breast-feeding, which can lead a healthier range of weight gain for babies. They also noted that changes in the federally funded Special Supplemental Nutrition Program, which subsidizes food for low-income women, may have played a part. Issues that affect the health of children and teens often are in the news. In the eEdition or online, find a story about one such issue. Summarize the key points on a sheet of paper. Then re-tell the key points visually in a comic strip or series of comic strips.

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.

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grades 9-12

1

Kickstarter

Kickstarter has become an important and popular way for artists and arts groups to raise money for creative projects. Through Internet “crowd-funding,” Kickstarter allows artists to fund projects by getting small contributions from many online supporters. Recently, the Kickstarter website was targeted by hackers, and the site’s co-founder is urging all users to change their password. Hackers did not get credit card information, co-founder Yancey Strickler said, but they did get access to user names, e-mail addresses and phone numbers. A few accounts had unauthorized activity. Creative projects funded by Kickstarter range from art installations to films to events. With a partner, brainstorm a creative event that would be fun for your community. Write a description of your plan as if it were to appear on Kickstarter

Common Core State Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task.

2 Navy Sued Over Sonar Plan

Despite protests from environmental organizations, the National Marine Fisheries Service has decided to allow the U.S. Navy to move on with testing plans involving sonar technology in the Pacific Ocean. Environmental groups led by the Natural Resources Defense Council filed a lawsuit in federal court in the state of Hawaii, demanding the Navy reconsider its plans to intensify sonar and explosives testing off the coasts of California and Hawaii. Although the Navy insists its activities would have a negligible impact on marine mammals, environmentalists favor creating zones that would be off-limits and to suspend training seasonally in spots rich in marine life. Protecting wildlife and natural habitats is an issue all over the world. In the eEdition or online find a story dealing with wildlife or habitats. Use what you find to draw an editorial cartoon offering an opinion on the issue.

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.

3 Let's Go Shopping!

Your eEdition is a good place to keep up with the news. It's also a good place to go shopping. Think of some things you would like to buy and look through the ads in today's eEdition. Click on the ads to read the details of different products. Print out ads to compare prices and descriptions. Finish by writing a paragraph describing how using an eEdition is different from print for finding and comparing products you want to buy. As a class, talk about the advantages and disadvantages.

Common Core State Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task; using technology tools to enhance learning; conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

4 Bushes Help Veterans

Former President George W. Bush and his wife Laura are working on an initiative to help military veterans in their transition back to civilian life and to aid them if they have post-traumatic stress disorder. The Bush Institute project also is urging employers to recruit and retain veterans in jobs. Bush, who launched the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq as president, says it's his “duty” to help veterans. As a class, discuss ways communities, can also help veterans. Then find a business in the eEdition that could employ veterans. Write a letter to the business, urging it to hire veterans and detailing the reasons this would be good for both the business and the community.

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.

5 Overweight? Not My Child!

Many parents of overweight children don't realize it, according to a review of studies published in the medical journal Pediatrics. Researchers found that two-thirds of parents underestimate their children's weight, which “prevents them from undertaking actions to correct it.” All the reasons for misconceptions aren't known, but scientists suggest that the news media may play a role. When media show

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.

pictures to illustrate stories about children being overweight, they often present pictures that show kids who are severely obese, which may distort parents' understanding of what an overweight child looks like. There also is resistance among parents to acknowledging that children are overweight. Health and weight issues often are in the news, especially when they involve children or teens. In the eEdition or online, find a story involving a health or weight issue or study. Read the story closely, and write a summary of the key points that families should understand.

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