

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

## 1 Dinosaur Chase in 3-D

How cool is this? A dinosaur chase that took place about 112 million years ago has been re-created by a team of researchers, using photographs of sauropod and theropod footprints discovered in Texas in 1917 and first excavated in 1940. The fossil footprints are considered evidence of one dinosaur chasing another. Over time, fragments were sent around the world for display, but not before photos were taken of the entire fossil collection, which stretched for almost 150 feet. These photos, combined with laser scans of remaining tracks, were used as the basis for a new 3-D model of the chase. Technology is helping scientists in more and more ways. In the eEdition, find and read a story about science. Then use what you read to write a paragraph describing ways technology is helping the scientists in this case.

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 Books in Space

Amazon has achieved tremendous success as an online bookstore, and soon it will be opening a store in space. Working with the International Space Station, Amazon will stock about 2,000 titles in hardback and paperback for the crews from around the world that come and go every 50 days. Designed to make downtime on the spacecraft more pleasant, the space store is the idea of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, who is in training for three-day journey to the space station and a space-walk ribbon-cutting. Not everyone likes the idea of selling books on the space station, because no other store has been allowed to do business there. If you were putting together a list of books for a space station crew, what titles would you choose? Pick three and write an eEdition story or column explaining your choices.

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

## 3 Word Search

Electronic editions allow you to search their content for stories or topics that interest you. This ability to search also can help you build word skills. You can search, for example, to see how many times a word appears in the electronic newspaper. As a class talk about the big news in the national section of the eEdition this week. Then make a list of words that are in the news. Search the eEdition for a day or a week to see how many times each word appears in stories. Then create a bar graph to show your results.

Common Core State Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task; organizing data using concrete objects, pictures, tallies, tables, charts, diagrams and graphs.

## 4 Elephants Recognize Voices

Elephants can distinguish between human languages, and can tell whether a voice is from a man, woman or child. This was the conclusion of a study at a national park in the African country of Kenya. When the elephants hear male adults of the Maasai people, they bunch together or move cautiously (Maasai men occasionally kill elephants in confrontations over grazing for cattle). But they seem unconcerned when they hear Maasai females and boys or men with other languages. In the eEdition, find a wild animal that you think shows intelligence in some way. Draw a series of comic strips for the eEdition, showing this animal's intelligence in action.

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 Spot That Asteroid

America's NASA space agency is offering up to \$35,000 to anyone able to develop a computer code that can identify life-threatening asteroids. Through its Asteroid Data Hunter Contest, the space agency hopes to develop the technology to spot huge space bodies like the one believed to have destroyed the Earth's dinosaurs 66 million years ago. NASA is looking for dangerous near-Earth asteroids and

claims to have located 98 percent of them. But existing detection systems can track only 1 percent of the objects that NASA estimates are orbiting the sun. New missions and approaches are helping astronomers learn more and more about the solar system, other galaxies and the universe. In the eEdition or online, find a story about a new space mission or approach. Read the story closely and write a paragraph explaining how the new mission or approach is helping astronomers learn more.

Common Core State Standards: Writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly; 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.

A Teaching Tool  
For Tomorrow

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

## 1 Few Female Film Roles

Women accounted for fewer than one-third of all speaking roles in last year's 100 top-grossing domestic movies, reports the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University. On top of that, just 15 percent of those films had women in leading roles. These statistics are essentially unchanged from 2002, when statistics were first collected on the percentage of female roles in movies. Lack of growth in the number of leading female characters has been attributed to the fact only about 17 percent of Hollywood's writers, directors and producers are women. In the eEdition or online, find ads for the movies drawing biggest audiences this week. Count the number of women listed in ads as stars of the movies. Then count the number of men. Show the results as a bar graph and calculate the percentages.

Common Core State Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; organizing data using concrete objects, pictures, tallies, tables, charts, diagrams and graphs.

## 2 More Mountain Climbing

The government of the Asian nation of Nepal is considering contracts with climbing companies that would grant exclusive access to many of its highest mountains. The Himalayan kingdom has some 3,130 mountains, but only 310 are open to commercial climbing. Nepal collects about \$2.7 million annually in mountaineering fees, most of it from the nearly 35,000 visitors to Mt. Everest, the tallest mountain in the world. Nepal can't manage all its peaks, however, and is proposing 30-year leases on the remaining 3,000. Sixty peaks in Nepal are taller than 26,000 feet. Mountain climbing is an adventure many people want to have. In the eEdition, find an adventure you would like to have sometime in your life. Brainstorm an idea for a movie based on this adventure and write the opening scene. Give your movie a title that would make your friends want to see it.

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

## 3 Goats Aren't Dummies

Goats are far smarter than people believe, a new study concludes. Researchers find that goats can be trained to learn complex tasks, and remember them for a long time. It's a "common misconception that goats aren't intelligent," the study's co-author says in the journal *Frontiers in Zoology*. They have a remarkable ability to adapt to harsh environments, he adds, but "we would need to perform a similar study with wild goats to be sure." Animals often are in the news. In the eEdition, find a story about animals or their behavior. Read the story closely. Then write a paragraph detailing key points, using material from what you read.

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.

## 4 Pull-Down Menus

The toolbar at the top or side of your eEdition allows you to move through the eEdition with pull-down menus. Pull-down menus may allow you to pick specific pages to visit by number. They may allow you to pick specific sections of the eEdition. They may allow you to visit eEditions from different dates. Or they may allow you to visit different editions that focus on different areas of your region. Try each type of pull-down menu. Write a complete sentence for each summarizing its advantages. As a class, finish by discussing what you like most, or least, about each method.

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.

## 5 Did Microbes Bring Mass Extinction?

The biggest mass extinction in Earth's history was caused not by massive meteor impacts or drifting supercontinents, as previously theorized. The cause was a tiny, single-celled microbe organism. About 252 million years ago, more than 90 percent of ocean life and 70 percent of land-based life forms died. New research suggests the cause was microbes producing large quantities of methane gas, following the largest

set of volcanic eruptions ever. The volcanoes spewed the element nickel into the oceans, which allowed the population of the methane-producing microbes to explode. Scientists closely monitor conditions on Earth to spot changes that could affect people or the environment. Find an example of such research in the eEdition or online. Write a paragraph or short essay, summarizing the findings and their importance.

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.

A Teaching Tool  
for Tomorrow

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

1

## Tigerless Masters

For the first time since 1995, the Masters Golf Tournament was played without Tiger Woods last week. Woods, who has won four Masters tournaments and has almost always placed in the top six, first played the Masters as an amateur and finished 41st at age 19. He missed the tournament this year because he is recovering from back surgery. Even before he pulled out, it didn't look like Woods would be a factor, given the way he'd been playing in previous weeks. In the eEdition this week, find stories about the outcome of the Masters. From what you read, write a sports column imagining what Tiger Woods might have to say to the winner or another top player.

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

2

## U.S. Internet Role

The United States government wants to stop being in charge of how the Internet is operated. The Commerce Department has announced its "intent" to hand over control to the wider net community. The controlling body should represent private companies and the government, the department said, in asking the non-profit 'net overseer group known as ICANN to work out how to shift control. ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) hailed the "long envisioned" move. What controls will be needed for the Internet as Web services evolve? Use the eEdition and Internet and other resources to research issues that will need to be addressed. Then write a short summary of what issues will be most important, in the form of an eEdition business story.

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

## Adverb Search

The Search and Advanced Search features of the eEdition are a great tool for building vocabulary. 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 write how having search functions makes the eEdition an effective tool for learning.

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.

4

## Priest Denounces Toys

A Roman Catholic priest has touched off a controversy in the European nation of Poland after news media quoted him describing toys like LEGO's Monster Fighters as tools of Satan that lead children to "the dark side." The Super Express newspaper reported that at a Sunday service the Rev. Slawomir Kosrzewa urged parents to dump these and other toys that he said undermine harmony and security. As a class, discuss toys that you think are not good choices for younger children. Use points made by the class to write an editorial for the eEdition urging caution by parents on some toys. If you like, offer ideas on toys you think are good choices as well.

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.

5

## In at 8 Ives

A 17-year-old senior at a Long Island high school in New York State has recorded a remarkable record for college acceptances this year — he has gotten in at all eight of the prestigious Ivy League schools. Curiously, Kwasi Enin is not his class's valedictorian at William Floyd High School, ranking 11th in a class of 647. On his SATs, however, he scored 2,250 out of a possible 2,400 points. A first-generation American from the

African nation of Ghana, Enin is not sure which school he'll attend (Princeton has offered the best aid package thus far), but has already decided to study medicine. Both of his parents are nurses. Choosing what to study in college is an important decision for students. So is deciding what kind of college would be best for you. In the eEdition or online, find news about colleges that might interest you. Then write a letter to the eEdition, outlining what kind of college would be best for you.

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

A Teaching Tool  
For Tomorrow