

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Scratching the Surface

Everyone itches, but why? Researchers in the United States and the Asian nation of China have identified sensory nerve neurons in mice that relay itchy sensations from the top layers of the skin to the animals' spinal cord. These findings, they believe, suggest that itching may serve an important role, and is not just a by-product of pain nerves, as was once believed. For many people, one researcher noted, itching is "devastating." Scientists believe that their findings could lead to drugs that suppress the itchy side-effects of some medicines and reduce the itchiness in skin diseases. As a class, talk about medicines that can help children and families stay healthy or get better from colds or the flu. In pairs or alone, find a medicine in the ads in the eEdition that your family might use. Write a sentence or paragraph explaining why.

Common Core/National 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, purpose and audience.

2 Snake on the Wing

Looking out an airplane window is usually not very interesting, but passengers between Cairns, Australia, and the southeast Asian nation of Papua New Guinea saw something truly unusual recently. A 10-foot python had climbed onto a wing of the plane, staying there when the plane took off. The snake managed to hang on during the two-hour flight, until the plane landed in the city of Port Moresby, but was dead on arrival from the frigid winds high in the Earth's atmosphere. Pythons are native to many areas of the world, and surprisingly adaptable to others. In Florida, for example, so many have gotten loose and multiplied in the Everglades that the state wants to hunt them. As a class, discuss problems that can occur when too many wildlife live in an area. Draw a comic strip for the eEdition showing one way to deal with the problem.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

3 Never Mind Ducking

Whew! A 1,000-foot-wide asteroid named Apophis (a-POE-fis) is not going to hit Earth after all. Earlier calculations by some astronomers had indicated the orbiting space object would smash into Earth on April 13, 2036, doing significant damage (but not destroying the world). After it whizzed by Earth recently, astronomers recalculated, concluding that it is no longer even a remote threat. Some asteroids have hit Earth over time, causing varying degrees of damage. As a class, find space news in the eEdition or on the website of America's NASA space agency, www.nasa.gov. Write a complete sentence describing a mission or a discovery that interests you.

Common Core/National Standard: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

4 A Day of Service

This year, January 21 was picked as the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. On this day, people across the country honor the famous civil rights leader by volunteering to help out their towns or communities. Some clean up parks. Some paint school classrooms. Some help senior citizens. Whatever they do, they work to make things better for others, just as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. did. What did people do in your community this year? Use the search features of the eEdition to see what people planned and did for this year's Day of Service. Design a poster highlighting five things people did that you think helped the community the most.

Common Core/National Standards: Using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points; considering the effects of an individual's actions on other people and how one acts in a virtuous and ethically responsible way.

5 Years Later, a Bag is Back

A 92-year-old Indiana man received a surprise in the mail recently – the U.S. Army duffel bag he toted before he was captured by the enemy more than 68 years ago in World War II. A 16-year-old boy found it – still stenciled in black with U.S. soldier's name and serial number – in his grandfather's house in France. When the boy came across the bag recently, the family tracked down the owner through an online

military forum and sent it to him. "It's still in good shape," he said. The U.S. soldier was captured in November 1944 just a few months after the D-Day invasion, when the U.S. and other countries landed in France in the first step toward the invasion of Germany. He was in a German prison camp until Allied troops freed him in April 1945. The return of the bag by the French 16-year-old was a good deed that deserves a thank you. Pretend you are the man who got his bag back and write a letter to the editor of the eEdition thanking the French boy for his kindness. List three reasons you are thankful for the return of your long-lost duffel bag.

Common Core/National Standard: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 The Hottest Year Ever

Even those who question global warming should be impressed by the data showing that 2012 was the hottest year ever in the United States. Last year's average temperature of 55.3 degrees Fahrenheit was higher, by a full degree, than the previous record, set in 1998. A total of 34,008 daily high records were set at weather stations across the country, compared to only 6,664 record lows. Scientists who released the data say that 2012 may well be a foretaste of the future, with continued warming making heat extremes more likely. The data were released by the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina. In the eEdition or online, see whether you can get more details about this temperature report or global warming issues. Write a summary of what you find, highlighting the most important points.

Common Core/National Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience; citing textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.

2 Wolves

Hunting for wolves has become a major activity in Siberia's remote Sakha-Yakuta region, but it's not being done for sport. Wolf packs have been prowling around villages in the Asian region area above the Arctic Circle, eating livestock, even horses and domesticated reindeer. Unlike parts of the western United States, where conservation groups are concerned about the survival of wolves, excessive hunting and predation by wolves is a major threat in Siberia and other parts of rural Russia. Conservationists there are not objecting to hunts for wolves because it's believed the wolves would most likely die on their own, if not for the livestock they are devouring. In the eEdition or online, find a story about humans and wild animals interacting. Write a short editorial for the eEdition detailing a way the relationship of humans and the animals could be improved.

Common Core/National Standard: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

3 Search for Service

Every day, your eEdition allows you to find stories that interest you. In honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Monday this week, search the news and features sections of the eEdition to find stories about service. Start by searching for the words "service" or "volunteering." When you find a story that interests you, read it 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 subject. Finish by writing a paragraph describing how having the ability to search for recent stories can be a benefit to readers.

Common Core/National Standards: Using technology tools to enhance learning and increase creativity; becoming proficient with the use of technology; describing the impact of technology use on individuals at home, at school and in the workplace.

4 Empty Shelves

There's a shortage of baby formula in Australia because the Asian nation of China has a thirst for the product. Chinese visitors, concerned about food safety standards in their homeland, are buying an Australian brand of formula in volume and carrying it home. Recent scandals involving tainted food products, including milk powder used in infant formula, have provoked panic among parents in China. Food safety is a big issue in every nation. In the eEdition or online, find a story about a food safety issue. Design a poster highlighting the issue, why it is important and why people should pay attention to it. Discuss posters and issues as a class.

Common Core/National Standard: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

5 Return Our Relics, Please

Art and history museums pay a great deal of attention to the past. But many of the ancient items museums display were stolen in an earlier time. For centuries, archaeologists and anthropologists have been discovering relics and bringing them back to Europe and the United States for study and display. As ancient countries reclaim their sovereignty and former colonies become independent nations,

however, their governments have claimed that these items are rightfully theirs. The J. Paul Getty Museum in California has been returning some of these, most recently a terra cotta head, dating to 400-300 B.C., which the museum concedes was "clandestinely excavated in the late 1970s" from the site of a sanctuary dedicated to the goddess Demeter on the Italian island of Sicily. Italy is one of several countries that have been demanding the return of items unearthed from ruins. In the eEdition and online find stories about requests that antiquities be returned. Discuss how museums should respond. Then write a short editorial for the eEdition detailing your view.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarizing points of agreement and disagreement; producing clear and coherent writing.

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for eEditions

grades 9-12

1 Dog Packs Are a Menace

Hundreds of thousands of dogs wander the streets of Mexico City, and packs of them are believed responsible for attacks that killed a teenage couple and a young woman and her baby. Police have trapped 25 wild dogs in Mexico's capital city and have placed them temporarily in a shelter. But animal advocates are protesting any possible plans to euthanize them without determining which, if any, were responsible for the deadly attacks. The government is planning a program to spay and neuter the city's strays and has sent mobile surgical units into the neighborhoods, offering free sterilization for pets. As a class, talk about the problems wild cats and dogs can cause for a community. Talk about what laws are needed to deal with the problem. Then research what laws exist in your community and write an editorial offering ideas to strengthen them.

Common Core/National Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience; citing textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.

2 Teen Activist

Malala Yousafzai is out of the hospital, and with her parents in Birmingham, England, where her father has been hired as an education attaché at the Pakistani Consulate. In a few weeks, she will undergo further surgery. Malala is the teenage activist shot in the head by Taliban militants for advocating the education of girls in the Asian nation of Pakistan. She has made "excellent progress," British surgeons say, but it's unlikely she or her family will be returning to Pakistan soon, especially since the Taliban has vowed to attack her again. She has a good chance of making a full recovery, medical experts say, but they are unsure about the long-term impact of her head injuries. In the eEdition or online, read about the Taliban's extreme views and actions. As a class, discuss what it would be like to live in a society where such views can inspire violence against teens or families.

Common Core/National Standard: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.

3 Search by Date

Your eEdition allows you to search previous editions for topics that interest you. You also can look at entire editions of the eEdition from different days. This can be done by using the toolbar option that allows you to view eEditions by date. Find that option on the home page. Then scan the front page of the eEdition for every day over the last week. List what the top stories were on each day. Were stories on the same topic front-page news on different days? Write a paragraph summarizing the top story for the week and why that story got front-page coverage. Then write a sentence describing the advantages of having the ability to compare eEditions from different days.

Common Core/National Standard: Understanding the operations and functions of technology systems and becoming proficient in the use of technology.

4 The QB's Girlfriend

After leading Alabama to a lopsided victory over Notre Dame in college football's national title game, quarterback A.J. McCarron saw his number of Twitter followers jump to 116,000. But he was far from No. 1 for his gains in the Twitterverse. That honor went to his girlfriend, Katherine Webb, whose Twitter fan total jumped from about 2,200 to more than 160,000 after TV showed her in the stands during the game. Webb was 2012 Miss Alabama USA. Newspapers and eEditions pay attention to celebrities because people are interested in their lives. In today's eEdition, find a celebrity in the news. Use what you find to draw a comic strip featuring this celebrity.

Common Core/National Standard: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

5 is 'Energy' Worth it?

Hospital emergency rooms report a surge in visits from young people suffering complications from highly-caffeinated energy drinks. The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reports that hospital visits involving these drinks doubled between 2007 and 2011, when emergency rooms reported a total of 20,783 visits in which an energy drink was the primary cause or a contribut-

ing factor to anxiety, headaches, irregular heartbeats, and even heart attacks. In almost half of these cases, the drinks had been consumed along with alcohol or other stimulants, and the largest group of patients were between 18 and 25. "Consumption of energy drinks is a rising public health problem," the federal report says. As a class, discuss why teens and young adults choose caffeinated energy drinks such as Red Bull, Monster Energy and others. Talk about how companies market them to make them attractive. Then design a health and safety ad for the eEdition detailing health risks high energy drinks can present to teens or other young people.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

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