

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Wrecks Across the Ocean

A fishing boat that washed ashore in Northern California belongs to a high school in the Asian nation of Japan — the first wreckage from the 2011 tsunami tidal wave to have crossed the Pacific Ocean and reach the West Coast state. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration confirmed where the 20-foot boat came from with help from the Japanese consulate in the California city of San Francisco. There have been more than 1,600 reports of wreckage and debris in America that people feel came from the tsunami, but this is the first confirmed in California. As a class, find a story about recovery efforts from the tsunami in the eEdition or online. Read the story and write a paragraph describing the biggest recovery challenges still facing Japan.

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

2 Worth More Than 5 Cents

A nickel has been sold at an auction — for \$3.1 million! It's not just an ordinary five-cent coin. It's one of five 1913 Liberty head nickels known to exist. It was made secretly and illegally, discovered in a car wreck that killed its owner, declared a fake, forgotten in a closet for decades, then declared authentic. It was offered for sale by a Virginia family at an auction sale outside Chicago, Illinois, and purchased in partnership by two men from Lexington, Kentucky, and Panama City, Florida. People who collect things often pay a great deal of money for items they want. In the ads of the eEdition find something that you would pay a lot for if you were a collector. Write a paragraph explaining your choice.

Common Core/National Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience; integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop understanding.

3 Out Front

Your eEdition allows you to quickly move from section to section. A pulldown menu allows you to look at the front page of each section to see what stories interest you. With a partner or on your own, find the pulldown menu that lets you move through the eEdition section by section. Look at the front page of three sections and write down the story in each section that is given the biggest display. Write a sentence for each story, explaining why you think it was displayed the way it was. Finish by writing a short paragraph explaining how having the ability to look quickly at section fronts helps readers find what they want to read.

Common Core/National Standards: Using appropriate technology resources to access information and communicate electronically; describing uses of technology in daily life; producing clear and coherent writing.

4 A Hotel at Legoland

A Legoland Hotel, the first in the United States, has opened in Carlsbad, California, just steps from the Legoland entertainment park there. Designed to appeal to children, the hotel's 250 rooms are decorated in themes from popular kids' literature; its restaurant buffet is low enough for youngsters to serve themselves; and it has fun attractions, such as a smoke-breathing dragon made of about 400,000 Lego bricks. At Legoland parks, attractions and rides are based on different Lego sets. In teams, brainstorm an idea for an entertainment park for kids your age. Give your park a name and design an ad for the eEdition to get people to come to it.

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.

5 Monkey See, Monkey Do

Do you ever do something just because other kids want you to do it? Peer pressure is not just something that affects humans — it affects monkeys, too! A recent study has found that humans' "willingness to conform ... is shared with other primates." That was the conclusion of a researcher in a team that observed 109 wild vervet monkeys at a private game reserve in South Africa. The team set out to

find how much baby monkeys are affected by their mothers' behavior, and were surprised to learn that "friends" and "neighbors" also influenced the babies. "The copying behavior of ... new infants and migrating males reveals the [power] and importance of social learning in these wild primates," a researcher reported. And that behavior even extends to the kind of "conformity we know so well in humans." As a class, talk about peer pressure and how kids your age can avoid it. Then find a comic you like in the eEdition. Draw a new version of that comic showing a character resisting peer pressure in a good way.

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.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 'Sweet Caroline' Surging in Sales

In Boston, Massachusetts, the Neil Diamond song "Sweet Caroline" is played at every Red Sox baseball game. After the Boston Marathon bombings, Diamond sang the song in person at the Red Sox' Fenway Park to show his support for the city. Sales of the song soared, and Diamond now says he will donate royalties from the sales to a fund for victims of the bombings. There are a lot of royalties. Sales for the 1969 hit jumped 600 percent in one week – from 2,800 to 19,000. With the Internet, find and watch a video of Diamond leading fans in the song at Fenway Park. Then discuss why you think the song is popular with fans. In the eEdition stories or ads, find an event that is popular in your community. Pick a song you like that would fit the event. Write a paragraph explaining your choice.

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; integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic.

2 The Camel's Not For Eating

Leaders of the African nation of Mali were so grateful to France for helping them drive back Islamist rebels that they presented a gift to French President Francois Hollande – a camel. But Hollande felt the animal would be out of place in his European nation, so he left it with a family in the Mali city of Timbuktu. What he apparently didn't realize is that camel meat is a major ingredient in tagine, a regional stew, and the Timbuktu family mistakenly thought that was the purpose of his "gift." Embarrassed Mali authorities are planning to give the French president a replacement camel, which will be delivered to him in France. The relations between different nations often make news. Find a story in the eEdition about the dealings between two countries. Write a paragraph describing the status of their relationship and what each country has to offer the other.

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

3 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 eEdition 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 in the toolbar at the top of the page 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/National Standards: Defining subject searching and devising a search strategy to locate information using available electronic research resources; demonstrating knowledge of changes in technologies and the effect those changes have.

4 Synonyms/Antonyms

Increasing word power and vocabulary will help your reading, and your speaking. Discuss synonyms and antonyms as the class. Review how synonyms (SIN-o-nims) are words that mean the same as other words and antonyms (AN-to-nims) are words that mean the opposite of other words. Go to the features section of the eEdition and list 10 words you know. Next to each, write a synonym that could be used in place of the word. Then go back and write an antonym for each word. Use two synonyms and two antonyms in sentences.

Common Core/National Standards: Applying knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts; demonstrating understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

5 Testing Firm Flunks

A company that creates and scores certain tests for the New York City public school system may deserve a failing grade. Nearly 2,700 students had been told incorrectly that they were not eligible for seats in the School District's gifted and talented programs, on the basis of tests wrongly scored. While the city's education department is notifying parents that their children are now eligible to apply, updated scores

are being distributed and the deadline for applying has been extended. The errors affected 13 percent of the kindergarten-through-third grade children who took the tests and were told they hadn't qualified for the highly coveted programs. From sports to science clubs, school programs make news in many ways. Find a story about a school program in the eEdition or online. Use what you find to design a poster highlighting the value of the program to students.

Common Core/National 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.

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grades 9-12

1 A Winehouse Documentary

Amy Winehouse, the troubled singer who died at age 27 from accidental alcohol poisoning, will be the subject of a documentary film. Director Asif Kapadia and producer James Gay-Rees will use previously unseen footage for the project, which they hope to introduce to prospective investors at the Cannes Film Festival this month. They describe the singer as “a once-in-a-generation talent who ... wrote and sang from the heart,” and as a result “everyone fell under her spell.” Documentary films tell real-life stories and often are inspired by the news. Find a story in the eEdition about a person or issue that would make a good documentary. Write a “film treatment” summarizing why the person/issue would be a good subject and how your documentary would be set up.

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

2 Monkeys Moving

Harvard University plans to shut down its troubled New England Primate Research Center in the state of Massachusetts, but this is not as simple as it may sound. For one thing, about 2,000 monkeys will have to be moved to other laboratories across the country. None of the animals will have to be put down (euthanized), a Harvard official said, promising “a transition that is orderly and respectful to all concerned, including the animals.” The center, which has contributed to research on AIDS and other diseases, received about \$87 million last year from the National Institutes of Health, but financial uncertainties have made the shutdown necessary, officials said. Scientific research is often in the news, with or without animals. Find a research story in the eEdition or online. Write a summary of the research and what it seeks to accomplish.

Common Core/National 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.

3 Students Stage Walkouts

It costs about \$30,000 a year to attend the Culinary Institute of America, but some students apparently think they're not getting their money's worth. They've been walking out of class to protest what they contend is a weakening enforcement of educational standards at the school in Hyde Park, New York. In recent years, students have been protesting what they describe as slipping academic requirements and shoddy equipment, among other issues. Use the eEdition to find an issue important enough for someone to stage a protest. Write a paragraph describing what kind of protest would be the most effective — or if another approach would be better.

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

4 Prom Party

For high school students, May and June is prom season. Use the eEdition to plan a prom party for members of this year's senior class. You will need food and drinks, of course. But you also need a new CD or DVD player to replace your old one. Search the electronics ads in the eEdition to find stores offering CD or DVD players. Click on the ads to read the details of different products. Print out two or three choices and decide which would be the best player to buy. Finish by writing a paragraph describing how using an eEdition is different from print for finding and comparing products you want to buy, along with the advantages and disadvantages.

Common Core/National Standards: Using a variety of technology tools for data collection and analysis; comparing information technologies from the past and present.

5 A 9/11 'Souvenir'

Almost 12 years after the September 11 attacks on America, a piece of an airplane's landing gear has been found, wedged in a narrow, inaccessible space between two buildings, about three blocks from the site of the World Trade Center in New York City. Hidden from view until now, it apparently is from one of the two jets that slammed into the twin towers. The piece — about 5 feet high, 3 feet wide —

was in a narrow gap between residential buildings when discovered by land surveyors. It bore a Boeing serial number. To lodge between the buildings, it had to have come in at almost precisely the right angle, a New York City police spokesman speculated. The events of September 11 still affect attitudes and emotions of people. Search the eEdition and Internet and find an issue, attitude or action that has a connection to 9/11. Write a paragraph explaining the connection.

Common Core/National 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.

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