

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1

Salmon Are Sick

A disease has been attacking wild Pacific salmon, but scientists have not been able to agree on just what it is. The virus is not harmful to humans who eat the fish, but it threatens local ecosystems in areas where salmon plays a key role, such as the Pacific Northwest of the United States. If the virus mutates into a more deadly strain in the crowded fish farms of British Columbia, a Canadian biologist has predicted, wild and farmed salmon could be devastated and businesses threatened. Other scientists say the findings are insufficient for alarm, and that the risks remain unclear. As a class, talk about businesses that are connected with wildlife or the environment. Find one in the eEdition or online. Write a paragraph describing how the business and the environment are connected.

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

Physical Fitness Month

Some kids like to run. Some kids like to play soccer. Some kids like to swim. Whatever sport you like, this is the month to do it. May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. The United States was a sporting country even before the Pilgrims landed in Massachusetts. Native Americans first played a game called paddle ball, which is like badminton. They also enjoyed archery contests and ring and dart games. And Native Americans also were the ones who invented the game of lacrosse. Lacrosse is growing in popularity around the country with many high schools and universities now fielding teams. As a class, talk about sports you like to play. Then search the eEdition for a story about a sport you like or play. Write a paragraph or short essay on why you like that sport and who your favorite player is. Draw a picture of yourself playing this sport.

Common Core/National Standards: Writing narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events; reading and writing with developing fluency, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing strategically and representing creatively.

3

To Be Continued ...

Your eEdition gives you many ways to find stories and information you need. Open the different tool bars at the top of the page until you find the one that shows the different sections of the eEdition. Go to the first page of the entertainment or sports section. Read a story on the page that continues on another page. Then use the toolbar at the top of the page to find the rest of the story. When you find the rest of the story, read it and write a short paragraph telling what it's about. Then write another paragraph comparing the way you find the rest of a story with the eEdition with the way you would find it with a paper edition.

Common Core/National Standards: Using technology resources for problem-solving, self-directed learning and extended learning activities; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task.

4

News Sleuth

The eEdition provides a variety of ways to improve your skills in school. As a class, look at a story in today's eEdition for one minute. Based on what you read and see, write on your own a description of what the story is about. Then discuss ways to figure out the basic content of a story, including skimming text and scanning headlines, captions and pictures.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; developing strategies and skills for information gathering and problem solving.

5

Phones and Animals in Orbit

Scientists are always looking for new information about how space travel affects things. Recently, America's NASA space agency sent three smart phones into orbit, hoping to see whether the technology inside them is powerful enough to serve as the core of future low-cost satellites. And NASA has joined with Russian scientists to send a menagerie of small animals into orbit in a project designed to

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; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

help determine how long space flights might affect human astronauts. The smart phones – named “Alexander,” “Graham” and “Bell” – are off-the-shelf Google HTC Nexus One phones. They are supposed to beam photos and other information back to Earth, and eventually burn up in the process of re-entering the atmosphere. The animals, including geckos, mice, gerbils and snails, will be brought back to Earth in a month and studied. Space missions often are in the news. Find one in the eEdition or online at www.nasa.gov. Write a complete sentence stating what the mission seeks to achieve. Then draw an illustration showing the mission in action.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow

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grades 6-8

1 Pain in the Long Run

Some marathon runners have been taking over-the-counter painkillers before they race, but a German study indicates they may actually be making things worse for themselves. In a 2010 survey involving 4,000 runners, researchers found that runners who used painkillers to prevent pain or injury had a 13 percent risk of “adverse events, including muscle ... and intestinal cramps.” More significantly, the drugs “do not prevent pain,” the researchers found. Scientists speculate that the painkillers interfere with the way the body contracts and relaxes muscle tissue. Over-the-counter drugs are widely used in America, and drug companies spend a lot of money advertising them. Find an ad for an over-the-counter drug in the eEdition or online. Write a summary of the claims made for it, and questions a smart consumer should ask.

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 'Not Boxers in a Kickline'

The “Rocky” boxing movies have been some of the most popular of the last 35 years. Now a musical version of the first “Rocky” is on its way to a Broadway stage in New York City. Sylvester Stallone, who became a star in the film, will not be featured in the stage version, but he is its co-producer, with Stage Entertainment USA. The musical “Rocky” has been a big success in Hamburg, Germany (where it's billed as “Rocky: Das Musical”), and it is expected to open in February at the Winter Garden in New York. Prospective audiences here are being assured it is “not boxers doing a kickline.” Artists often remake works in other forms, turning a movie into a theater musical, for example, or a news event into a movie. In today's eEdition, find an event, person or issue that would make a good subject for a movie. From the news, write a summary of the story your movie would tell, and how.

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; writing narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events.

3 Graph it

Stories about the economy have been in the news a lot lately, and many of them include numbers: how the government is distributing money, how the stock market is moving, how many people are being laid off by companies and so on. Explore news about the economy by using the Search or Advanced Search function of the eEdition and searching for the word “economy.” Read one of the stories you find and figure out the best way to present the information in a graph or chart. Then make the graph or chart. Write a paragraph explaining ways that graphs or charts can be effective for displaying and organizing information.

Common Core/National Standards: Writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly; locating information from electronic resources; describing the impact of technology use on individuals at school and in the workplace.

4 Fake Bomb Detectors

Everyone wants to be safe, and a businessman in the European country of Great Britain recently thought he could make a buck by selling devices he promised could detect explosives and drugs under water and from the air. The only problem is that they didn't work, even though they cost up to \$42,000 each! The man now has been sentenced to 10 years in jail, because the prosecutor proved the devices “lacked any grounding in science.” People are always inventing new things to do things people need or want done. Find a new product in the ads in the eEdition. Brainstorm a new invention that could improve the product. Draw a picture of your product.

Common Core/National Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic; using drawings or visual displays.

5 Military Cemetery Almost Full

After almost two centuries, the 12-acre West Point cemetery is almost full, and the U.S. Military Academy is taking steps to expand the hallowed site on the Academy campus in New York State. A military cemetery since 1817, it includes the graves of major historical figures – Lt. Col. George Custer and Gen. William Westmoreland, for example – and 16 Medal of Honor recipients. Every year, between 150 and 200

people are laid to rest there. The Academy's plans include new locations for cremated remains (funded by donations from graduates) and expansion of the burial grounds to allow for eventual burial of as many as 8,000 soldiers. Many institutions have a limited amount of land, but face expanding needs to use it. In the eEdition or online, find an institution like a college, a park or a non-profit organization that has a campus or outdoor space. Read about the group and brainstorm ways it might want to use the land in the future. Write an outline for a land-use plan for the organization, detailing choices it may face. (Remember that keeping space open is also a choice.)

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; writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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grades 9-12

1 Lost Limbs Covered?

The American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association has promised to provide artificial limbs to anyone who lost a leg in the Boston Marathon bombings if they are uninsured or their insurance does not cover the cost. The cost of an initial prosthesis leg could be \$8,000 to \$30,000, and according to an official for the national trade group, many insurance plans sharply limit coverage. It is not known yet how many of the more than a dozen people who lost legs in the blasts will need help paying for the artificial replacements. The cost and availability of medical insurance is often in the news. Find a story in the eEdition or online. Write a paragraph summarizing the news in the story. Write a second paragraph detailing whom the news affects most.

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 a coherent understanding of a topic.

2 The Guantanamo Dilemma

The 166 prisoners of the United States at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba have never been convicted of anything. They are suspected of being foreign terrorists, and they are there indefinitely. President Obama has promised to close the prison run by the U.S. military, and transfer the inmates to continued confinement in the mainland United States, eventually to be tried and, if not convicted, released to their native lands. Thus far, he has been unable (some say, unwilling) to do so because of opposition from Congress. In the meantime, most of the inmates have gone on a hunger strike. The inmates at Guantanamo are being treated as “enemy combatants” and are not afforded the constitutional rights guaranteed American citizens. With the eEdition or Internet, read stories about the debate over treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo. Write a summary of points expressed on both sides of the debate.

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; writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic.

3 Search for NHL News!

The NHL playoffs are under way, and every day your eEdition allows you to find stories about teams and players that interest you. Go to the sports section of the eEdition and scan the pages for a story about the NHL playoffs. Read the 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 other stories on the NHL teams in the first story. Find the stories electronically and read them. Then write a paragraph describing 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 Russian Voting Restricted

A new law signed by Russian President Vladimir V. Putin allows regional legislatures to forgo elections and appoint governors from a list approved by the president. Critics say the law will allow Putin's United Russia Party to avoid defeats at the polls by enabling regional legislatures to bypass voting by citizens. Elections make news all over the world. Find a story in the eEdition or online about an election in a country other than the United States. Read the story and write a summary of the key points, issues or controversies. Then write how the election is different or the same as elections in the U.S.

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.

5 Soap Operas Online

Soap operas are some of the most popular shows on daytime television. But what happens when they are taken off the air? Two of the longest-running soap operas are getting a new lease on life on the Internet. Prospect Park, a production company, snapped up the rights to “All My Children” and “One Life to Live” after ABC canceled them in 2011. After a year of difficulties – financial and otherwise – the transi-

tion has been completed, and the shows are now available online on the Hulu and iTunes websites. The company's owners say they don't expect every one of the shows' 3 million viewers to watch them online, but only one-sixth of that number will enable the firm to break even. Viewers, they predict, will be longtime fans and “younger people who are already watching most of their TV online.” As a class, talk about the growth of Internet programming for entertainment. Pick one you have tried or view one you have heard about. Write a review of the show as if you were a TV critic for the eEdition, including how you like watching a program online.

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.

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