

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Woof! Dogs Help Your Heart!

Many families have dogs for pets and love them a lot. But did you know that owning a dog may help protect you from heart disease? That's what the American Heart Association has concluded from years of study by experts it asked to collect information on the matter. Why is this so? The experts suggest that dog owners have more reason to go outside and take walks, and that most owners form such close bonds with their pets that the animals' presence reduces the owners' reaction to stress, lowering their heart rate. Another possibility, the panelists say, is that people who are healthier in the first place may be more likely to have a pet. Americans keep about 70 million dogs and 74 million cats as pets. Find a dog, cat or other pet in a photo, story or ad in the eEdition. Draw a comic strip showing an owner having fun with this pet.

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 when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

2 An Unplanned Spacewalk

A spacewalk usually takes a lot of planning, but two American astronauts aboard the International Space Station spent more than five hours in a quickly arranged effort to locate the source of a leak. The leak had forced the shutdown of one of the eight power systems that provide electricity to the laboratory orbiting more than 200 miles above the Earth. Thomas H. Marshburn and Christopher Cassidy never did locate the source of the leak, but they did install a new pump, which seemed to solve the problem. The entire operation, including the planning, took less than 48 hours. It was the 168th spacewalk related to construction or maintenance since the first piece of the space station complex was launched in 1998. Space missions often make news. Find a story about one in your eEdition or online at www.nasa.gov. Write a paragraph describing the mission and its main goals.

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 Math Problems

Reading the eEdition is a great way to build math skills as well as language skills. See how by using an article or topic from today's eEdition as the basis for a story or word math problem that uses the skills you have learned this year. Be sure to find the solution and double check that it is correct. Then compile the problems created by the class to make a newsworthy and fun practice test for an exam.

Common Core/National Standard: Representing and solving problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

4 Pick a Movie!

Your eEdition contains everything included each day in the print edition of the newspaper. That includes ads as well as stories and photos. In today's eEdition, find an ad for a movie you would like to see with your friends. Click on the ad to show your friend what actors are in the movie and why you find it interesting. Now find an ad or listing that will tell you where and when you can see this movie. List two or three choices on a sheet of paper. Finish by writing a paragraph describing how using an eEdition is different from print for finding movies, along with the advantages and disadvantages.

Common Core/National 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; using a variety of technology tools for data collection.

5 An Endangered Food

Cassava is a potato-like root that helps feed 500 million Africans, but a disease is destroying entire crops of it. The loss of the crops is adding to food shortages already being felt in African nations. Cassava brown-streak disease has spread out of East Africa into the heart of the continent. It has attacked plants as far south as Angola and is threatening to move west into Nigeria, which produces more

cassava than any other nation on Earth. Scientists estimate that Africa is losing 50 million tons of cassava a year to the disease, and if nothing is done to halt its spread, Africa could face a huge food crisis. Many plants are grown to produce fruits and vegetables for food. Find one you like in the ads in the eEdition. Write its name down the side of a piece of paper. Then write a poem about why you like this food, starting each line with a letter of its name.

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 to develop understanding.

A Teaching Tool
For Tomorrow

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 A Slimmer Candidate?

Years ago, before TV and modern technology, an elected official's appearance might not have been as important as it is today. One president, William Howard Taft, weighed more than 300 pounds, for example. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie is a similarly large man, and he recently underwent weight-loss surgery that has left him 40 pounds lighter. Though he is often discussed as a candidate for president in 2016, he says politics had nothing to do with his decision to have "lap-band" surgery that restricts the stomach to discourage eating. Though the next presidential election is more than three years away, there is much speculation about who will run. Use the eEdition to make a list of candidates being discussed for the 2016 race. Use what you find to write an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of one possible candidate.

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.

2 Sorry, Mom. It's Mine.

NBA superstar Kobe Bryant has filed suit in court to prevent his mother from auctioning off mementos from his days playing basketball at Lower Merion High School in Pennsylvania. The Los Angeles Lakers star tells the U.S. District Court in Camden, New Jersey, that the memorabilia belongs to him, and he never gave his mother permission to get rid of it. His lawyers have written to the auction house in Berlin, New Jersey, demanding it cease the June sale. Mom received a \$450,000 advance to sell the items. As a class, debate whether the items still belong to Bryant after his mother had stored them for years while he pursued his career and moved elsewhere. Under what circumstances should she be allowed to sell or get rid of them? Take a vote as a class on whether the sale should be allowed. Then write a short opinion piece for the eEdition detailing your opinion.

Common Core/National 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.

3 eEdition Suffixes

Electronic editions allow you to search their content for stories or topics that interest you. This ability to search also can help you build vocabulary and word skills. You can search, for example, to see how many times a word appears in the eEdition. Or you can search to see how many times a suffix appears. As a class, review how suffixes are added to the end of words to change their meaning. Some common ones are "able," "ity," "ment," "tion," "ive" or "less." As a class, discuss which you think are used most often. Then search today's eEdition to see how often different suffixes appear. Show your findings as a bar graph or chart.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; using technology tools to enhance learning; understanding the operations and functions of technology systems and becoming proficient in the use of technology.

4 Too Many Prisoners

Prisons in the state of California are so overcrowded that federal courts have ordered a population cap, and the state has been forced to come up with a plan to reduce the number of inmates. The plan under consideration includes early release credits, paroling elderly and incapacitated prisoners and slowing the return of thousands of Californians being held in private prisons in other states. Prison overcrowding is a problem in many states. As a class, discuss different ways that states could deal with it. Do additional research with your eEdition and the Internet and write a short eEdition editorial giving your opinion on the best approach.

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

5 Disabled Workers Win Case

Thirty-two mentally disabled men have been awarded a total of \$240 million by federal jury for what government lawyers say was years of abuse by a Texas company that arranged for them to work at an Iowa turkey processing plant and oversaw their care, work and lodging. In the largest award in the history of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, each of the men receives \$7.5 million

for what the Davenport, Iowa, federal jury called "malice or reckless indifference" to their civil rights. The workers are unlikely to receive the full award, however, because the company is now out of business. Abuse of the workers began in the 1970s. They never received a raise from the \$65 a month they were paid, after deductions for room and board, and their handlers subjected them to constant abuse. The rights of workers or individuals often make news. Find an example in a story in the eEdition or online. Write a paragraph summarizing the rights that are at issue, citing evidence from the text.

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.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

1 Black Voter Turnout

For the first time in history, a higher percentage of African Americans voted in 2012 than the percent of white voters, the U.S. Census Bureau has reported. The increase was driven in part by more votes from black women. More than 66 percent of eligible African Americans voted, compared to 64.1 percent of eligible non-Hispanic whites. In 2012, about 1.8 million more blacks voted than in the 2008 presidential election, and about 2 million fewer non-Hispanic whites. Exit polls indicated that more than 90 percent of the African American voters voted for President Obama in 2012. As a class, talk about the changing makeup of the voting public in the United States. Then find a story about the next presidential election in the eEdition. Write a paragraph analyzing how the changes in the voting population could affect the next election.

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 College Grads Doing Better

All else being equal, you have a better chance for a job in these years of high unemployment if you are a college graduate. The unemployment rate in April for college graduates was 3.9 percent, compared to 7.5 percent for the work force as a whole, the U.S. Labor Department has reported. Even when the jobless rate for college graduates was at its worst in this business cycle – in November 2010 – it was 5.1 percent, which is close to the rate for the rest of the work force when the economy is good. The number of college graduates with jobs actually has risen since the beginning of the recession (by 9.1 percent), while it has dropped 9 percent for those with a high school diploma but no more. In the eEdition or online, find a story about employment or unemployment in your state or region. Read the story and write a letter to the editor, detailing what you think will happen next.

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.

3 More Signal Words

The electronic edition of the newspaper can be a great tool for improving reading comprehension. As you read, it is important to recognize “signal words” that that give clues that something that follows is important. Words like “furthermore,” “besides,” “in addition,” “specifically” and “finally” do this. Other words tell you that you are going to hear an opposite view next – “however,” “yet,” “still,” “instead” and “even though” are examples. Use the search function of your eEdition to see which signal words are used most often in the news and opinion stories in the eEdition. Search for those listed above for a week and chart the results.

Common Core/National Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; using prescribed technology tools for data collection and analysis; using charts and graphs to organize information.

4 Testers Flunk

School districts in three states are rescheduling high-stakes proficiency tests because of technical problems in the test administrators’ computer systems. Thousands of students in Indiana, Oklahoma and Minnesota have been bounced offline by mistake during testing. CTB/McGraw-Hill, which administers the tests in Indiana and Oklahoma, says it is fixing the problem. Technology is being used in new ways in all aspects of life. Find an example in the stories, photos or ads of the eEdition. Write a paragraph explaining how your example has changed the way people do things and how things were done before this technology was invented.

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

5 Captive Family Freed

Throughout the world, militant groups have been financing their operations through ransom money paid in kidnappings. That was not the case, however, in the freeing of a French family held hostage for two months by Islamic militants in West Africa, officials of France and Cameroon insist. French President Francois Hollande said no ransom had been paid to the captors – a Nigerian jihadist group called Boko

Haram, which has killed thousands in a terrorism campaign in northern Nigeria, near the Cameroon border. France is believed to have paid ransoms in the past for release of hostages by jihadist groups in West Africa, but Hollande reportedly has put an end to the practice. Four young boys, their parents and an uncle were touring a nature preserve in Cameroon, near the Nigerian border, when they were captured. The Boko Haram wanted prisoners to be freed, but terms of the family’s release have not been disclosed. Kidnappings and political unrest make news in many African nations. Find a story about such news in the eEdition or online. Write a summary of the story and how it affects other nations in Africa or the world.

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.

A Teaching Tool
For Tomorrow