

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Staying in Sacramento

National Basketball Association owners have voted against moving the Sacramento Kings from Sacramento, California, to Seattle, Washington. In January, an investment group struck a deal to buy 65 percent of the NBA team, planning to move it out of Sacramento because it is a “small market” city and metropolitan area. But at the urging of Sacramento’s mayor – former NBA star Kevin Johnson – a rival group was able to match that group’s bid, and that group wants to keep the team where it is. As a class, talk about what benefits professional sports teams bring to a community. In the eEdition, find the team closest to your city or community. Write a paragraph describing how the team benefits the community. Don’t forget to mention how it makes fans feel!

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 Jumping Around

When a newspaper or eEdition article starts on one page and continues on another page, it’s called a “jump.” With the eEdition, it’s easy to go to the rest of the story. At the bottom of the first part of the article, there will be a line telling readers what page the story continues on. It’ll usually include the story nickname (called a “slug” in journalism). It may look something like “See ENVIRONMENT, Page C6.” Click on the page number or on the slug and you’ll be taken to the rest of the article. Choose an article from the eEdition that continues on another page. Read the first part and then click on the jump to continue reading the rest of the article. On a piece of paper or computer, write the Who, What, When, Where, Why and How of the article.

Common Core/National Standards: Reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; asking and answering such questions as who, what, where, when, why and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

3 Unpopped Popcorn

Eat your way to the bottom of almost any box of popcorn and there they are: rock-hard, teeth-cracking, unpopped kernels. Ah, but researchers have found out why some popcorn kernels won’t pop. Unpopped kernels, it turns out, have leaky hulls, or coverings, that prevent the moisture pressure buildup that is needed for popping. The findings may help popcorn growers select the best varieties – or create new ones. Check your eEdition for other food news. Write a summary of one story. For fun, make a drawing or cartoon showing your least favorite foods, other than unpopped popcorn.

Common Core/National Standards: Citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions; writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas; using drawings or visual displays to enhance main ideas or points.

4 American Red Cross

On May 21, 1881, the American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton and Adolphus Solomons to work with the International Red Cross to provide aid to victims of wars and natural disasters. As a class, research the work being done by the Red Cross this week, based on information you gather in the eEdition, the Internet or other resources. Discuss what role the Red Cross plays in the international community today.

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

5 Time’s Up, Cicadas!

They’re on their way, so brace yourself for the 17-year cicadas (SICK-ay-duhs). Every 17 years, like clockwork, millions of the winged bugs dig out of their burrows underground just long enough to produce offspring. Then the offspring tunnel into the earth and stay for another 17 years. Scientists are unsure why. This spring, the 17-year cicadas are emerging in eastern states of the United States from

Connecticut to North Carolina. Next year it will be in the Midwest, and almost every year these bugs emerge somewhere. Cicadas with 13-year life cycles also emerge in different places each year. You’ll know when the 17-year cicadas have arrived. They make a lot of noise, and highways are littered with their bodies. They emerge when soil temperature reaches 64 degrees. At first they are whitish in color but they quickly change to black, with orange-veined wings and red eyes. They are “bizarre and beautiful,” says one bug expert. Wildlife and nature often make news. Find a news story or photo of a species in the eEdition. Draw a comic strip illustrating why this species is in the news.

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

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grades 6-8

1 Tanning Bed Taboo

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration wants to require tanning booths and tanning beds to carry a warning aimed at young people. Because of mounting evidence that indoor tanning raises risks of cancer among younger users, the warnings would urge those under 18 not to use the devices. Compared with those who start later or don't use tanning booths at all, people who begin tanning when they are younger than 35 have a 75 percent greater probability of developing melanoma (the deadliest form of skin cancer), and also eye cancers. The National Cancer Institute estimates that about 9,480 Americans die each year from melanoma. As a class, discuss the FDA proposal to require warnings for tanning. Draw an eEdition editorial cartoon, offering your opinion about either the warnings, or risks of tanning for young people.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarizing points of agreement and disagreement; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

2 The Pirates' Accountant

Someone probably had to keep the books for Captain Kidd. So it should come as no surprise that modern pirates may need bookkeepers, too. Authorities in the European nation of Germany have arrested a man who acted as the accountant for a band of Somali pirates who hijacked a German oil tanker three years ago. According to the charges, he was responsible for provisioning the pirate ship with food and supplies, and for dividing millions of dollars in ransom money. Piracy off the Horn of East Africa has been a problem for the shipping industry for years, but the number of attacks has been reduced sharply by international forces patrolling the area. Around the world, crime-fighting can involve everything from piracy to robberies to physical assaults. In the eEdition or online, find a story about crime or crime-fighting. Write a paragraph describing ways this type of crime could be reduced.

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.

3 If You Had Your Way ...

Reading the news can help you build critical thinking and analysis skills. Read today's eEdition and find 10 instances of news you would consider bad. For each item of bad news, write a description of what you think should have happened instead. Then pick one of the items and write a description of what could have been done to prevent the bad news from happening, if anything, and how the situation should be dealt with now in order to make things better.

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.

4 Quick Classifieds

When you're looking for a bike, an apartment to rent or a used car to buy, it's easy to save or print the classified ads in the eEdition. Click on a classified ad to select it and make it larger. Click on the "clip and save" button or similar feature in your eEdition. Use your mouse to drag the outline box to the four borders of the ad you want. Click the download/print button or similar feature. You can now save the ad to your computer or print it. Search the classified ads in the eEdition to find two similar products or items, such as apartments for rent or used cars for sale. Print or save the ads. Which product or item is the better value? Why?

Common Core/National Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; using a variety of technology tools for data collection; using economic reasoning when comparing price, quality and features of goods and services;

5 Food Ads Fooing Kids

The food industries insist they are making their products healthier for children, just as critics have demanded. But a new study has concluded that self-policing has failed because the industry's self-defined healthier foods "are not necessarily good for you." The study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation concentrated on food advertising for children, most of which promotes fast foods, snacks, sodas and

other products that experts consider high-calorie and low-nutrition. Children younger than 9 "don't even understand the persuasive nature of advertising," the researchers state in the Journal of Health Communications. "They see it as information [and that] leads them to think it's normal to eat foods like that ..." This is a key factor, the researchers note, in the epidemic of childhood obesity in the United States today. In teams or alone, use the eEdition and Internet to find stories about childhood obesity and efforts like First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" campaign to reduce obesity. Write a summary of one effort, and design a health poster to promote it.

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 Teen Blood Pressure

High blood pressure (hypertension) is not uncommon among teens and adolescents, but it may have some positive effects. A new study suggests that hypertensive teenagers have higher academic achievement and fewer emotional and behavioral problems than peers with normal blood pressure. German researchers, reporting in the journal *Psychosomatic Medicine*, say hypertensive children do better in school, have higher self-esteem and are less likely to report symptoms of hyperactivity. However, high blood pressure does not improve physical health. Hypertensive teens are more likely to be overweight, feel physically unfit and spend more time in front of TV and computers. In the eEdition or online, find a story about a health issue affecting teens or young adults. Read it closely and summarize its main points, using evidence from the text.

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 and convey ideas and information clearly.

2 Oranges Threatened

A bacterial disease with no known cure is threatening Florida's citrus growing industry. The bacteria, which is particularly devastating to oranges, causes the fruit to turn bitter and drop from the trees while still unripe. Other diseases, hard freezes and hurricanes have all affected Florida's \$9 billion citrus industry, but "citrus greening" has been the most worrisome. The citrus industry is a major economic force in Florida, involving 76,000 jobs. About \$11 million in federal funds have been earmarked for research into the disease. When a problem occurs, many people would like the federal government to spend money to correct it. Others, however, want the government to spend less money on all programs. As a class, debate whether the federal government should spend tax dollars to address the citrus greening problem. Use points from the debate to write a short eEdition editorial expressing your view.

Common Core/National Standards: Responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarizing points of agreement and disagreement; writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

3 Pretty Picture

The eEdition allows users to easily print articles and photos. Click on the clip and save or similar button. Using your mouse, click and hold the left button to drag the borders around the article, photo or other item you'd like to print. Once the borders completely outline the item to be printed, click print. Find a photo in today's eEdition that you like. Following the instructions above, print the photo. Study the photo and write a short, creative story about the person, place, animal or object in the it.

Common Core/National Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing; writing narratives providing a context within which an action takes place; using technology tools to enhance learning and increase creativity.

4 Death Penalty Abolished

Maryland has become the first state south of the Mason-Dixon Line to abolish the death penalty. In signing the repeal, Governor Martin O'Malley said the death penalty is "wasteful ... ineffective [and] doesn't work to reduce violence." The governor, who has been considering seeking the Democratic nomination for president in 2016, has come under fire from supporters of the death penalty, who claim he's taking away a tool to protect the public. Maryland is the 18th state in the nation to abolish the death penalty. In the eEdition or online, find stories about opposition or support of the death penalty. Brainstorm text for a television ad advocating one position or the other.

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

5 Lower the DUI Limit?

The National Transportation Safety Board has recommended that states lower the allowable concentration of alcohol in the blood that determines whether a motorist is "driving under the influence" (DUI). The current standard, established at the insistence of the U.S. Congress a decade ago, is 0.08 percent, which means, for example, that a 180-pound man could consume four beers or glasses of wine in

90 minutes without reaching the limit. The NTSB recommends 0.05 percent as the cutoff for DUI, which is the standard in most other industrialized nations. In this country, all 50 states have followed the 0.08 percent standard since 2008, when a law was passed withholding federal road construction funds from states that did not agree to it. The American Beverage Institute says the proposed change would "criminalize perfectly responsible behavior." Alcohol and driving can be a deadly combination. Read up on the problem in the eEdition and online. Then design a public service ad for the eEdition citing key facts that teens need to know about drinking and driving.

Common Core/National Standards: Reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

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