

# SUMMER NEWS {..BYTES..}

## for eEditions

grades 2-5

1

### Adverb Search

The search features of the eEdition are a great tool for finding information. They also are a great tool for building vocabulary and word power. Adverbs are colorful words that can make your writing stronger and more effective. Adverbs describe the action of verbs or the descriptions of adjectives. Many adverbs end in the letters "ly." Use the search features of the eEdition to find adverbs used to make writing more effective or colorful. Remember to leave a space after the "ly" when you search to make sure you find only words where those letters are at the end of the word. Share words with family or friends. Then write how having search functions makes the eEdition an effective tool for learning.

Learning 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.

2

### It's Gone!

Only eight men have ever done it: Barry Bonds, Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth, Willie Mays, Ken Griffey Jr., Alex Rodriguez, Sammy Sosa and now Minnesota Twins slugger Jim Thome. All of these men hit 600 or more home runs in their Major League Baseball careers. Thome clouted not just one home run, but two in his history-making game against the Detroit Tigers last week. Thome, who is 40 years old, is the oldest player to hit the 600 home run mark. Thome hit at least 20 home runs in 17 of his last 18 seasons, according the Associated Press. Look in your eEdition's sports section. Use the box scores for games to figure out how many home runs were hit in yesterday's games and by which teams. Chart the results to show which team had the most homers.

Learning Standards: Using charts, graphs and tables to organize and display information; reading and interpreting bar graphs in both horizontal and vertical formats.

3

### Making the Grade

You aren't the only ones who get report cards. Each summer, school districts find out how their students did on state tests taken earlier in the spring. Your school and your school district get a score based on how well students did on those tests. Many schools in many states did not make the grade this year. For example, in Michigan, 700 schools didn't meet their academic goals. With family or friends, find an eEdition article about your school district. Or find one online. Write a letter to the teacher you will have this year, explaining what the article said about your schools.

Learning Standards: Acquiring information from written, visual and electronic sources; writing personal and formal letters, thank you notes and invitations.

4

### Stand and Deliver

Some people scream when they see a spider. Other people faint if they see blood. And one thing that scares more people than just about anything is speaking in front of other people. Their palms begin to sweat, they trip over words and they forget what they are supposed to say. But speaking to people is an important skill and a learning goal in most states. Find an interesting eEdition article. Read it carefully and then tell your family or classmates what the article said. Remember to include the main idea and supporting facts.

Learning Standards: Delivering oral summaries of articles and books that contain the main idea of the event or article and the most significant details; reading, writing and speaking fluently.

5

### Here, Boy!

People love their pets. But would you pay \$1.5 million for one? Recently a Red Tibetan Mastiff sold in the Asian nation of China for 10 million yuan, which is about \$1.5 million in American dollars. The dog weighs 180 pounds. According to a CNBC article, this isn't the only expensive pet people are

Learning Standards: Creating a composition using the elements of art and principles of design; reading and writing with developing fluency; speaking confidently; listening and interacting appropriately; viewing strategically and representing creatively.

buying. From specialty breeders, you can get an Ashera cat for a mere \$22,000, a Goliath Palm Cockatoo for between \$15,000 and \$20,000 or a Deveronvale sheep for \$378,000. Most purebred dogs in the United States go for between \$350 and \$700. Another option for finding a pet is a local animal shelter, where you pay a small adoption fee and save an animal's life at the same time. Look in your eEdition classifieds for pets. Draw pictures of four different pets for sale or adoption. Think up creative names for the animals that might make people want to adopt each as a pet.

A Teaching Tool  
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grades 6-8

## 1 The Wild West

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid were the stuff Wild West legends are made of. They, along with their gang, robbed banks and trains across the western United States in the late 1800s before fleeing to Bolivia in South America. There, it is said, they died after a shootout. Now a few historians think Cassidy may have survived the shootout and lived out his life in Washington State. They have made that conclusion based on a recently found old manuscript. Search your eEdition for an article about someone famous today. Using that article, write an essay about the impact that person is having on history.

Learning Standards: Writing a biographical or autobiographical narrative; acquiring information from written, electronic and visual texts and then organizing and analyzing it.

## 2 Please Tax Me

Ask any grownup if they want more taxes, and most will tell you, “heavens, no!” Multi-billionaire Warren Buffett, however, said he wants to be taxed more. Buffett is one of the world’s three richest men, and the U.S. Congress needs to stop “coddling” the very wealthy, he said in a Reuters news article. He told ABC News that “the wealthy have it better than we’ve ever had it,” and they have an obligation to pay more in taxes — a lot more. Buffett insists it is the poor and middle class who are suffering right now — not the very wealthy. Find an eEdition article about raising taxes or revenues by the state or national government. Using the article as a reference, create a survey with classmates to find out how people feel about raising taxes. Chart the results.

Learning Standards: Analyzing competing ideas about the purposes government should serve in a democracy; acquiring information from various sources and then organizing and analyzing it.

## 3 Ocean Threat

Dutch Shell Oil workers are racing to shut down a leak in an offshore well in the North Sea off the coast of Great Britain. The workers were able to shut down a main leak last week, but oil continued to seep into the ocean from a secondary rupture. According to the Associated Press, this second leak is in a very hard-to-reach place. British officials said the leak was small compared to the spill in the Gulf of Mexico last year, but still is a problem. Find an eEdition article about oil production. As a class or family, debate the pros and cons of drilling for oil in the ocean.

Learning Standards: Understanding and explaining ecosystem concepts; describing positive and negative effects of humans on the environment; delivering persuasive presentations differentiating between fact and opinion.

## 4 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. Write a short, creative story about the person, place, animal or object in the photo.

Learning Standards: Using technology tools to enhance learning and increase creativity; becoming proficient with the use of technology; reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively.

## 5 Food and Thievery

The World Food Program (WFP) of the United Nations launched an investigation into food theft in the African nation of Somalia after sacks of grain and other food staples were stolen and sold in markets, according to an article from the Associated Press. Much of the food that was stolen was sent by other countries to provide famine

Learning Standard: Exhibiting personal style and voice to enhance the written message in both narrative and informational writing (e.g. emotional appeal, strong opinion, credible support).

relief in the African country. More than 3.2 million Somali people need food and 29,000 children already have perished from hunger and disease. The WFP condemns the diversion of “even the smallest amount of food from starving and vulnerable Somalis,” the article said. Yet as much as half the donated food is being diverted. Markets in Mogadishu have been selling piles of food that is stamped with logos of countries and aid organizations. Find an eEdition article about the Somalia crisis or another human rights issue in another country. Using descriptive language, write a summary of the article.

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grades 9-12

## 1 Guilty or Not Guilty

Two years ago, two men and a woman hiked through the mountains of what they thought was Iraq. It turned out to be Iran, and the three were arrested and charged with espionage. Since that time, the woman has been released, but the two men are still in custody awaiting verdicts. The trial of Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal ended last month, and the verdict is expected soon. The hikers pled not guilty to the spying charges. Iranian officials released Sarah Shourd on bail, and she returned to the United States. Find an eEdition article about someone charged with a crime. With family or classmates, create a mock trial for the person being charged in the article. Assign roles such as prosecutor, defense attorney, judge and members of the jury.

Learning Standard: Understanding and describing the rights of the accused using case studies and examples.

## 2 Get Out the Vote

The 2012 presidential election is revving up with several Republicans throwing their hats in the ring for the chance to face President Obama. Recently, U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota won a test vote of Iowans, boosting her prospects for winning the Republican nomination. Bachmann is running against several opponents, including Texas Governor Rick Perry, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney and U.S. Rep. Ron Paul of Texas. Almost 17,000 voters flocked to the campus of Iowa State University to cast their nonbinding vote in the “straw poll” that Bachmann won, according to an Associated Press article. Find eEdition articles about candidates for president. Using those articles, write a persuasive essay about the candidate you think should win.

Learning Standard: Writing persuasive compositions structuring the ideas and arguments in a sustained and logical fashion.

## 3 Searching For Answers

The Advanced Search feature of the eEdition allows readers to search recent editions for topics of interest. Simply click on Advanced Search and type in the word, name or phrase you're looking for. Choose the date range and then click Search. Using the Advanced Search feature of the eEdition, search for an issue or event that has been going on for a while in your state or country, such as summer sports leagues, droughts or the nation's economic problems. Choose at least three days to search. Write about how the event or issue changed from the first article to the last.

Learning Standards: Utilizing technology-based research tools to locate and collect information pertinent to a task, as well as to evaluate and analyze information; analyzing and describing the use and reliance on technology.

## 4 Wind Power

States searching for alternative energy sources can look to Maine as an example. The U.S. Department of Energy recently awarded the state a \$102 million loan to support the construction of a 50.6 megawatt wind power plant. The project also plans to add advanced sensor systems to allow it to operate in bad weather, which would cause other turbines to shut down, according to a Forbes article. The goal of the project is to double the clean energy produced by 2035. Find an eEdition article about alternative energy. Write a summary of the article.

Learning Standards: Summarizing informational texts including books, newspapers and magazine articles; highlighting the main ideas of the texts; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

## 5 Shopping for Schools

SAT scores are arriving and high school seniors are shopping for universities. Expensive colleges aren't always the best choices, according to authors Claudia Dreifus and Andrew Hacker. Recently, they spent three years interviewing faculty, students, parents and administrators to determine if an expensive private college

Learning Standards: Describing and demonstrating how the economic forces of scarcity and opportunity costs impact individual and family household choices; responding to a variety of texts by making connections to students' personal lives.

education is worth the money. Many times, it isn't, the authors said in a recent Reader's Digest article. They argue that spending a lot of money isn't worth it because young people start out their adult life deeply in debt, classes often are taught by teaching assistants rather than the professors themselves and high-powered athletic programs often sap money from academics. Find an eEdition article about choosing a college. Or find an example online. Using that article, write a paragraph or short essay describing what kind of college you would like and why. Include information about costs.

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