

SUMMER news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1

A Toothy Dinosaur

The sauropod, a plant-eating dinosaur, must have kept the tooth fairy busy. It produced new teeth as often as twice a month and had up to nine backup teeth in each socket. The sauropod was the largest animal that ever lived on land (up to 100 feet long), and its varieties include what once was known as the brontosaurus. Because it was huge and a vegetarian, scientists wondered about the effect on its teeth of munching huge amounts of plant matter. Researchers scouring dozens of museum collections in search of sauropod jaws reached their current conclusion by literally pulling teeth. Animals that only eat plants are called “herbivores.” Scan the stories, photos and ads of the eEdition and list as many herbivores as you can find. Draw a cartoon or comic strip showing one herbivore and what it eats.

Common Core/National Standards: Using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points; integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic.

2

Watering Plants

Watering plants is a chore normally left to neighbors when families go away, but a 27-year-old industrial designer has come up with a new idea. He has invented Water from a Stone, a hand-blown glass container from which water seeps through a tiny hole. Placed in a pot or planter, it can dribble for three to four days and keep the plant healthy. The invention came out of a classroom assignment for Casey Schneider when he was studying at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York State. He was asked to design a vessel for home use in glass. With families or friends, discuss things you would like to invent. Then design an ad for the eEdition showing one invention. Give your invention an interesting, creative name.

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.

3

One Dolphin to Another

Dolphins call each other by “name,” scientists believe. Recent research reveals that dolphins use different whistles to identify each other, much as humans use names. The study reveals that each bottlenose dolphin “called” by another responds by sounding back the same whistle. The chief researcher said understanding this skill might be able to tell us more about how communication developed in humans. Dolphin whistles are one form of communication. In the eEdition, find two ways humans communicate. Create a chart comparing the advantages and disadvantages of each kind of communication. Share your chart with family and friends.

Common Core/National Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; organizing data using tables, charts, graphs, spreadsheets and databases.

4

Easy e-mail

The eEdition allows users to easily e-mail articles, photos or ads they want to share with someone. Simply click on the item you want to e-mail and then click the e-mail icon. Fill out the form with the e-mail addresses of the sender and recipient, and include a message. Find the movie theater ads in the eEdition. Click on the theater your family goes to most. E-mail the ad to a friend and write a note about which movie you'd like to see, when you'd like to see it and why you think this is a movie the two of you would enjoy seeing together.

Common Core/National Standards: Integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic; communicating information accurately and effectively by creating electronic, oral, written and visual texts.

5

Comet is on its Way

What scientists have labeled a possible “comet of the century” is on its way in Earth's direction, but you don't need to duck. The closest the comet named ISON will get will be about 730,000 miles above Earth's surface. And to live up to predictions, it has to survive its closest encounter with our sun. Calling ISON the comet of the century is almost downplaying it, considering it began streaking this way

about 10,000 years ago and a century is just 100 years. But if all goes well, the icy wanderer will give Earth skywatchers a stunning show in November. If the sun does not destroy it, when ISON whips toward Earth around November 28, the comet could light up Northern Hemisphere skies for weeks. Space events and missions often are in the news. With family or friends, read about one in the eEdition or online. Write a paragraph describing the most important facts of the event or mission.

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.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow

SUMMER news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 Tennis Star Defies Illness

Earlier this year, tennis player Ivo Karkovic was in intensive care in a Miami, Florida hospital, being treated for viral meningoencephalitis that caused severe headaches, numbness, seizures and confusion. Just over two months later, the 34-year-old Croatian won the Claro Open Colombia tennis tournament in Bogota, Colombia in South America. One month after his discharge, the 6'10" Karkovic resumed practicing, too tired at first to last more than five minutes, but eventually working his way back to tournament-level skill. His serve, which has been clocked as fast as 156 mph, was especially deadly in the Colombia tournament. In the eEdition or online, find a story about an athlete who is recovering from illness or injury. Write a paragraph describing the greatest challenge the athlete faces in recovery.

Common Core/National Standards: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; applying knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts; writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

2 Great Reef 'Bombed'

During a training event that went wrong, two U.S. fighter jets dropped four inert bombs on the Great Barrier Reef off Australia's Queensland coast. None of the devices exploded. The AV-8B Harrier jets had been assigned to drop the bombs at a bombing range on a nearby island, but the mission was aborted. The planes were low on fuel and could not land with weapons on board, so they were instructed to jettison the bombs at the edge of the reef area. The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral structure, rich in marine life and a World Heritage Site. In the eEdition or online, find a story about concerns for protecting a wild habitat. Draw an editorial cartoon offering an opinion on the situation.

Common Core/National Standards: Using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points; integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic.

3 A Hair-Raising Concert

Beyoncé got her hair caught in a stage fan while performing a concert in Montreal, Canada, this summer, but never missed a beat. She continued to belt out her song "Halo," while she and stagehands attempted to free her strands from the whirling machine. Afterwards, she reworked the lyrics of "Halo" to fit: "I got snatched ... goodnight all." Live performances by singers and bands can provide surprises that you don't find on CDs or videos. Find a review of a live performance in the eEdition or online. Read it and write a paragraph describing something surprising or unusual that occurred. Or how the performance was different from a recording.

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 topic.

4 Clever Classifieds

When you're looking for a job, an apartment to rent or a kitten to adopt, it's easy to save or print the classified ads found in the eEdition. Practice this with the Classified Ads section today. 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 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; understanding the operations and functions of technology systems; integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a topic.

5 Menthol Cigarettes Riskier?

Smoking cigarettes is bad for your health, and apparently smoking menthol-flavored cigarettes is even moreso. In a "preliminary scientific evaluation," the U.S. Food and Drug Administration conceded that there is "little evidence to suggest that mentholated cigarettes are more toxic," but their mint flavor masks the harshness of tobacco, "making it ... harder to quit." Before deciding how to proceed,

however, the FDA will solicit public input for two months. Menthol sales account for about a quarter of the U.S. cigarette market, but about 80 percent of the African American market and nearly half of all young smokers. The tobacco industry insists menthol cigarettes are no more harmful than any other. Health issues often make news. In the eEdition or online, find a story about a health issue that affects teens, preteens or younger children. Read the story and write an outline of how the writer structured the article. Then write a suggestion for another way the story could be structured.

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 and information clearly.

A Teaching Tool
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SUMMER news {BYTES}

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grades 9-12

1 Less Sleep = More Pounds

If you're not getting enough sleep, a new report indicates, it may be responsible for weight gain. A University of Pennsylvania study suggests that staying up late and getting too little sleep may make you heavier because of late-night eating to fight sleepiness. The study, conducted in a sleep laboratory, was designed to see how sleep deprivation might affect eating patterns. Researchers concluded that people trying to maintain or lose weight might try to "force themselves to go to bed at a decent hour ... help[ing] them regulate their caloric intakes because they won't be eating late at night." Health issues affecting teens often make news. Find an example in the eEdition or online. Write out five questions you would like answered to learn more about the issue.

Common Core/National Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience; reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it.

2 Aide is Too Attractive

The Iowa Supreme Court has upheld the legality of a dentist's dismissal of an assistant because he had grown too attracted to her. The all-male court ruled that bosses can fire employees that they or their spouses see as threats to their marriage. It's not sex discrimination, the court ruled, because such firings are motivated by feelings, not gender. The fired employee had asked the court to reconsider a December decision that a dismissal was legal if "the boss views the employee as an irresistible attraction." Decisions that affect working opportunities or rights often make news. Find an example in the eEdition or online. Use what you find to draw a series of comic strips in which the characters talk about the decision. Discuss the issue with family or friends.

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 Twinkies Smaller

Twinkies are back. The company that bought the rights and recipes for the sugary snack food insists the Twinkie is the same size as it used to be, but many fans complain that it's smaller. Boxes of 10, now on store shelves, weigh 13.58 ounces. They used to weigh 15 – until the former manufacturer reduced the weight shortly before going bankrupt last November. Changes in products often are in the news. In the eEdition or online, find a story about a product change. Think like a marketer and design an ad for the eEdition describing the change in a way that would not upset consumers. Discuss your ideas with family or friends.

Common Core/National Standards: Using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points; engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.

4 Something to Say

The eEdition allows readers with a question or an opinion to easily ask or say what they want. Often, a reporter's e-mail address is linked to the byline (the name of the writer at the top of the article) or listed at the end of the article. The editorial page also includes a link to allow readers to send e-mail letters to the editor. Find an article in the eEdition about a topic or event that provokes an emotion. Click on the reporter's e-mail link or the letters to the editor link to bring up an e-mail message with the appropriate addresses. Write and send a letter with appropriate language stating your opinions or questions.

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 topic.

5 High Vintage Lawsuits

WineCare is a high-security wine cellar that stores, catalogues and cares for 27,000 cases of wine in a Manhattan warehouse in New York City. It charges high fees to safeguard collections worth tens of millions of dollars. It's now in bankruptcy, but that may be the least of its problems. When Hurricane Sandy struck last year, Hudson River waters came rushing into the cellar. Although assuring custom-

ers their wine is "fine," WineCare officials have been denying them access to their property, raising fears that century-old bottles have been spoiled or rendered anonymous because their labels washed off in the flood waters. Some prominent collectors (one has wine worth an estimated \$5.2 million) are suing the firm. Lawsuits of all kinds make news. Find an example in the eEdition. Write a summary of the case detailing the most important issues for each party involved.

Common Core/National Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience; writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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