

# SUMMER NEWS {..BYTES..}

## for eEditions

grades 2-5

1

### Next Stop, Mars

Last week the nation celebrated the 40th anniversary of the first walk by humans on the Earth's moon. And men who flew on that historic Apollo 11 mission don't want the United States to stop there. Astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins are urging President Obama to send American astronauts on a mission to the planet Mars. "I'd like to see Mars become the focus," said Collins, just before he, Aldrin and moon-walker Neil Armstrong met with President Obama last week. With family or friends, talk about the idea of sending humans to Mars, which is the next planet out from Earth in the solar system. Write a letter to the editor of the eEdition explaining why you think this would be a good or bad idea.

Learning Standards: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; explaining how we learn about the universe; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

2

### Treasure Find

There's a famous saying that one person's trash is another person's treasure. What that means is that something one person may not want may be considered valuable to another person. In New York City this summer, a man discovered that trash he was hired to collect from a dead artist's house five years ago was a lot more valuable than he ever dreamed. Inside a barrel put out as trash, Nick Dimola recently found historic items from Mexico that go back more than 2,000 years — and are worth more than \$16,000! In the stories and photos of the eEdition, find an item that some people might not want but others might find valuable. Write a paragraph describing why this item would not be liked by some people. Write a second paragraph explaining why it would be liked by others.

Learning Standards: Acquiring information from multiple sources and then evaluating, organizing and communicating it in various contexts; developing and applying critical standards for individual use.

3

### Check Out a Story

Electronic editions allow people to read and use newspapers with just a few keystrokes or clicks of a mouse. Explore your eEdition by turning to Page One today on your screen. Click on a story to show it in display mode. Then click to show it as text only. What are the advantages of each way the story is shown? Print out a copy of the story as it appears each way. Then save a copy to your computer or send a copy to yourself or your family as an e-mail. Finish by writing a short paragraph describing the advantages of having different ways to display and read stories with your eEdition.

Learning Standards: Using appropriate technology resources to access information and communicate electronically; retrieving and saving information; printing text or images.

4

### Solar Eclipse

Last week people on the continent of Asia experienced a complete solar eclipse. When that happens, the moon comes between the Earth and the sun and blocks the light. Last week's event could be seen only in parts of India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and China. In some countries, people worry that bad things will happen during an eclipse and stay at home. Others look for ways to get the best view of an eclipse. With friends, talk about what it would be like to see a solar eclipse. Then draw a comic strip for the eEdition showing how a favorite comic character might respond.

Learning Standards: Responding to a variety of visual, written and electronic texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others; showing how science concepts can be interpreted through creative expression such as language arts and fine arts.

5

### Time to Stop

Japanese runner Keizo Yamada has been running long-distance races for more than half a century. Now, 57 years after he competed in the 1952 Summer Olympics, Yamada says he's going to stop running marathons. At age 81, he says it's time to "scale back" and stop participating in the

26-mile marathon competitions. He still may try half-marathons, however, and will run to "stay in shape." Around the world, more and more senior citizens are staying active later in life, not just in sports but in other activities as well. In the eEdition, find an example of a senior citizen being active and making news. Write a short letter to the editor of the eEdition praising this person for setting an example for the value of an active life.

Learning Standards: Reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately; identifying and explaining how individuals demonstrate good character and personal virtue.

A Teaching Tool  
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# SUMMER news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

## 1 West Coast Tsunamis?

Tsunamis are giant tidal waves that build up strength as they roll across open ocean before slamming into land. They are often caused by earthquakes, and a new study of earthquake faults suggests the risk may be higher for the U.S. West Coast than previously thought. The study of faults off the coast of Alaska suggests that there is potential for a major earthquake that could set off a tsunami. The study looked at earthquakes that took place over the last 2,000 years. In the eEdition this summer, follow news about natural events and disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires and hurricanes. At the end of the summer chart which types made news most and write a paragraph summarizing your findings.

Learning Standards: Acquiring information from multiple sources and then organizing and analyzing it; organizing data using tables, charts, graphs, spreadsheets and data bases; employing the most effective strategies to construct meaning while reading, listening to, viewing or creating texts.

## 2 Second Languages

More and more in the years ahead, knowing how to speak more than one language will be important to success in business, education or careers around the world. But when is the best time to learn a second language? A new study suggests that the best time is between birth and age seven, because that is the time when children's minds are most open to learning new sounds. When babies are born, the researchers say, they can hear and distinguished the sounds of all languages. But as they focus on one language, they lose the ability to absorb the sounds of others. With family or friends, talk about the ways knowing more than one language will be important in the future. Then find a job in the eEdition in which knowing more than one language would be helpful. Write a sentence explaining why.

Learning Standards: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; locating and describing the cultures of communities; appreciating the diversity of cultures; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

## 3 Harry Potter

Summer is a huge season for movie ticket sales. Consider Harry Potter. "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" racked up \$159.7 million in ticket sales in its first five days on screens in the United States. The movie also took in \$237 million in 54 other countries around the world, bringing its worldwide total to a whopping \$396.7 million. With friends, talk about what makes movies popular with audiences during the summer. Then pick one you have seen or would like to see from the movie listings in the eEdition. Write a paragraph describing why this movie appeals to you.

Learning Standards: Responding to a variety of visual, written and electronic texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

## 4 Graphics or Text?

An eEdition allows you to view stories the way they are displayed graphically in the print newspaper or as text-only files. Each type of display has its advantages. Search the different sections of today's eEdition and find one story you feel would be best viewed if displayed graphically and one story you feel would be best viewed as text only. Write a paragraph explaining why one story was better viewed when displayed as it was in the newspaper and why the other was more effective as a text-only display.

Learning Standards: Making informed choices among technology systems, resources and services; creating criteria to compare and contrast technology systems, resources and services.

## 5 Seals Get a Break

In San Diego, California, a colony of protected harbor seals has been at the center of a debate about whether the sea creatures should be allowed to bask on large areas of a popular beach. The city was planning to spend nearly \$700,000 to chase the seals from the beach and restore the area to its

Learning Standards: Explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; describing positive and negative effects of humans on nature and wildlife; acquiring information from multiple sources.

original condition. But California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill passed by the state legislature that allows the beach to be considered a marine mammal park as well as a shore attraction. The area is one of just two areas in the state where the federally protected harbor seals give birth and nurse their young. With family and friends, talk about the challenge of balancing the needs of wild animals with the desires of people. Then find a photo of a wild animal in the eEdition. Write a paragraph describing how this animal's needs could present a challenge to people.

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# SUMMER news {BYTES}

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grades 9-12

1

## More Soldiers

U.S. soldiers are engaged in high stakes operations all over the world. And there aren't enough soldiers in the U.S. Army to meet the need. Last week U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced that the size of the Army would be increased by 22,000 soldiers to meet the nation's needs around the world. With wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and growing unrest in neighboring Pakistan, Gates said the Army needed more soldiers than the current 547,000 who are active. In the eEdition, find a story about U.S. military activity somewhere in the world. Write a paragraph summarizing what the U.S. forces are doing. Write a second paragraph describing what you think are the greatest challenges facing these forces.

Learning Standards: Acquiring information from multiple sources; describing how world issues and events affect various societies, places and cultures in different ways; understanding how the world is organized politically, the formation of American foreign policy and the roles the United States plays in the international arena.

## 2 Plants on the Move

Climate change is affecting plant life all over the world. But should scientists move species to other areas when they become endangered in their native regions? That question has become a hot issue among environmentalists, as scientists grapple with what to do about the 20 to 30 percent of species that have a high risk of extinction from global warming by the year 2100. But introducing plants to new areas runs the risk of introducing invasive species that could upset the balance of the environment in the new areas. In the eEdition, find environmental stories connected to global warming or climate change. Write a short editorial for the eEdition offering suggestions on what should be done by people to address one issue.

Learning Standards: Explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; describing positive and negative effects of humans on nature and wildlife; utilizing the persuasive power of text as an instrument of change in the community, the nation and the world.

## 3 What Next for Vick?

Ex-NFL star Michael Vick has completed the 23-month sentence he was given after his conviction on dog-fighting charges. Now the big question is whether he will return to pro football. Vick, 29, has been suspended by the NFL, but he wants to meet soon with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell about a return to league play. With friends, talk about the sentence Vick received for dog-fighting and whether he should be allowed to return to the NFL. Write a short letter to the editor of the eEdition, expressing your opinion.

Learning Standards: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; utilizing the persuasive power of text as an instrument of change in the community, the nation and the world.

## 4 'Uncle Walter'

As the longtime news anchor for CBS News, Walter Cronkite was once considered "the most trusted man in America." Last week, after Cronkite died at age 92, the nation reflected on how people get news today and whether any one person could be considered the most reliable source. With friends, talk about how you get news about the nation, sports, entertainment or the world. Then skim the pages of the eEdition to see the different kinds of news eEditions and newspapers cover. Write a paragraph comparing eEditions to one other source of news that people use today.

Learning Standard: Writing fluently for multiple purposes to produce compositions, such as stories, poetry, personal narratives, editorials, research reports, analyses, persuasive essays, resumes and memos.

## 5 Find a Car

Your eEdition makes a lot of information available on your computer with just a click of a mouse or a few key strokes. Being able to view information from the eEdition on a computer this way can help with consumer decisions. Say you want to buy a car. Using the front page Index, find the Classified Ad

section of today's eEdition. Page through the Classifieds until you find the auto ads. Click on several boxed display ads and write out a car and model that would appeal to you. Record what auto dealer is selling the car, what the asking price is and other information important to you. Then click on Classified Ads offering new or pre-owned cars for sale. Write down a car and model that interests you, the asking price and other important information. Finish by writing a paragraph describing what you feel are the benefits of being able to shop for consumer items with the technology of an eEdition.

Learning Standards: Using a variety of technology tools for data collection and analysis to support a decision; identifying capabilities and limitations of contemporary and emerging technology resources.

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