

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

## 1 Great Old Water System

In ancient times aqueducts were raised bridges built to carry water into cities for use by the people living there. Some go back more than 2,000 years, and a discovery in the Middle East country of Israel is showing what they looked like. Workers repairing a water system in the city of Jerusalem have uncovered several sections of an arched aqueduct (AH-kweh-dukht) that is nearly 700 years old. The old aqueduct is giving scientists a look at how water systems worked in the area. As a class, talk about public buildings, roads, bridges or other structures that were built to provided services to your community. Find an example in the eEdition. Write a paragraph describing how life would be different if this structure did not exist.

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

## 2 World Series of Birding

The World Series of Birding is a yearly event that brings people from across the country to the state of New Jersey to count birds and raise money for conservation and wildlife programs. The 24-hour event began at midnight on May 15, and teams competed to see which could find the most bird species in one day. Two teams tied for first in this year's competition, recording 228 species each. In youth competition, a team of high school students took first with 188 species, a middle school team logged 140 for top honors in its category and a team of students in Grades 1-5 topped all others with 119. As a class, talk about different bird species that live in your community and the ways they benefit the environment. Draw a comic strip for the eEdition showing one of these birds in action.

Learning Standards: Explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; using the craft of the illustrator to convey ideas artistically.

## 3 eEdition Prefixes

Electronic editions allow you to search their content for stories or topics that interest you. You can also search to see how many times a word appears in the paper. Or you can search to see how many times a prefix appears. As a class, review how prefixes are added to the front of words to change their meaning. Then search today's eEdition to see how often the prefixes "pre," "pro" or "dis" appear. Remember to leave a space before the prefix when you type it into the search window so that you only get the beginning of words!

Learning Standards: Using technology tools to enhance learning; understanding the operations and functions of technology systems and becoming proficient in the use of technology.

## 4 Dino Head-Banger

Fossil hunter Darren Tanke was poking around a bone bed of horned dinosaurs in Texas and found the top of the skull of a new species of dinosaur. This dog-sized dinosaur had a rounded "dome" of bone on the top of its head that it used to butt other dinosaurs. Scientists are now working to find a complete skull of the new species, which lived more than 70 million years ago. In teams or pairs, find an animal in the eEdition that lives in your community or state. Then think like a future fossil hunter and write what its bones could tell scientists about the way it lived.

Learning Standards: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; explaining how fossils provide evidence about the nature of ancient life; explaining how scientists decide what constitutes scientific knowledge.

## 5 A Benefit From Butts

People who smoke cigarettes put their health at risk. They also create a trash problem with the cigarette butts they leave behind. Now scientists in the Asian country of China have found a use for cigarette butts that may keep a lot of them out of trash or smoking containers. The scientists have

Learning Standards: Showing how common themes of science, mathematics and technology apply in real world contexts; showing how science concepts can be interpreted through creative expression such as language arts and fine arts.

discovered that the chemicals left behind by smokers in cigarette butts and filters can be used to protect steel pipes. The scientists said that nine chemicals they recovered from cigarette butts helped prevent steel pipes from rusting. About 4.5 trillion cigarette butts find their way into the environment each year, the Chinese scientists said, and recycling them to protect metals could reduce that number. As a class, talk about ways people recycle or find new uses for things. With a partner, find something that could be recycled in the eEdition. Design a poster showing how this item could be recycled and what it could be used for.

A Teaching Tool  
for Tomorrow

# news {..BYTES..}

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grades 6-8

## 1 Pinocchio

A group of scientists working in the Foja Mountains of the Asian country of Indonesia have discovered a new type of frog. The frog was a male with a spike at the end of his long nose, so the scientists nicknamed him Pinocchio. They also found a previously undiscovered type of wallaby (a mammal in the kangaroo family) and a new bat. Scientist Bruce Beehler said, "While animals and plants are being wiped out across the globe at a pace never seen in millions of years, the discovery of these absolutely incredible forms of life is much needed positive news." Find an animal in the eEdition this week. Use the eEdition and other resources to do research and create a page about the animal for a science textbook.

Learning Standards: Asking questions that help students learn about the world; designing and conducting investigations using appropriate methodology and technology; learning from books and other sources of information; reconstructing previously learned knowledge.

## 2 At the Movies

The first "Star Wars" movie opened in theaters on May 25, 1977. It introduced special effects that moviegoers had never seen before and spawned two sequels and, over 20 years later, three "prequels." All of the movies took viewers to distant planets. Find an article about an event, discovery or study related to outer space. It can be about space travel, a planet, the moon, the stars, the International Space Station or anything else. Write a summary of what you learned in the article and draw an illustration or diagram to go with your summary.

Learning Standards: Comparing and contrasting our planet and sun to other planets and star systems; explaining how we learn about the universe; writing fluently for multiple purposes; representing creatively.

## 3 Fitness

May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. In groups use images, headlines and information from the eEdition to create a poster encouraging people to be healthy and fit. Include facts about health, exercise, sports or nutrition. Be sure to give your poster an eye-catching headline or title.

Learning Standards: Comprehending what constitutes good health and nutrition; showing how science concepts can be interpreted through creative expression such as fine arts or language arts; recognizing and using different levels of discourse appropriate for varied contexts.

## 4 Bad Ads

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is asking doctors to report misleading drug advertisements as part of its "bad ad program." The FDA wants to make sure drug manufacturers aren't making untrue claims about the effects or benefits of their drugs in order to sell them. Find an ad in the eEdition, a magazine or online that you feel could be misleading. Write a paragraph explaining why. Share your thoughts on the ad with the class.

Learning Standard: Analyzing how purchasers obtain information about goods and services from advertising and other sources; developing and applying critical standards for individual use.

## 5 Search & Learn More

An eEdition offers a variety of features that let you find information quickly and efficiently. And once you find something that interests you, eEditions let you learn more with search features. With the toolbars or Index, find the editorial page in today's eEdition. Click on the editorial

cartoon to enlarge it. Study it to see what it is about and what point the cartoonist is making. Then use the Search or Advanced Search feature of the eEdition to see what stories appeared in the eEdition about this subject. Write a paragraph describing the issues that inspired the editorial cartoon. Write a second paragraph describing how the features of the eEdition assist readers in gathering a variety of information.

Learning Standards: Locating information from electronic resources; describing the impact of technology use on individuals at home, at school and in the workplace.

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# news {..BYTES..}

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grades 9-12

## 1 Fishless

Last week the head of the United Nations Environment Program said that oceans might not have any fish left in them by the year 2050, due to overfishing. But the good news is the U.N. says this disaster can be avoided if fishing is discouraged in certain areas and protected zones for fish are created. Read about overfishing or another environmental issue in the eEdition or online. Write an eEdition science article explaining what the situation is and how it should be addressed. Think especially about what should be the beginning paragraph of your article to catch people's attention.

Learning Standard: Describing, comparing and explaining the locations and characteristics of ecosystems, resources, human adaptation, environmental impact and the interrelationships among them; describing positive and negative effects of humans on wildlife and the environment.

## 2 eEdition Politics Search

This year is an election year for members of the U.S. House, one-third the members of the U.S. Senate and for many governors. As a class talk about the issues being addressed most by candidates for these offices, or races that are getting attention. Then make a list of issues and races getting the most attention. Use the advanced search function to search the eEdition for a day or a week to see how many times each issue or race comes up in the news. Remember that you may need to include a combination of the names of candidates, the offices sought or the issues being discussed to narrow each search. Finish by creating a bar graph to show your results.

Learning Standards: Using technology tools to enhance learning; understanding the operations and functions of technology systems; organizing data in charts, graphs and tables.

## 3 Improv

Jazz musician Duke Ellington died on May 24, 1974, at age 75. In jazz, the musicians frequently improvise, making up songs as they go. Test your improvisation skills. In groups, pick an article in the eEdition and write a rough outline of a skit based on the article. Don't write any dialogue, just a general plot. Then act out your skit for the class, filling in the details as you go along. If you get stuck, ask the class for some suggestions on what should come next in your skit.

Learning Standard: Reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively.

## 4 Protest Songs

Singer and songwriter Bob Dylan's birthday is May 24. Dylan wrote many songs during the 1960s that were reactions to the mood of the nation, including songs that spoke out against the Vietnam War. Think of a song you like. Pick an adjective that describes the mood of the song. Is it cheerful? Angry? Cynical? Then find an article that evokes the same mood. Write a short paper explaining how the article and the song go together.

Learning Standards: Functioning as literate individuals in varied contexts within their lives in and beyond the classroom; using text resources while thinking creatively, making decisions, solving problems and reasoning in complex situations.

## 5 Honest Politics

An Australian politician surprised TV viewers recently when he admitted that you can't always believe what politicians say. During a TV interview, Tony Abbott was asked why he had promised no new taxes and then had proposed a new tax shortly after. Abbott responded that when a politician gives a

"carefully prepared, scripted remark" he or she is telling the truth, but that may not always be the case in more informal situations. In groups, pick three remarks made by three different politicians in the eEdition. Do research to determine the credibility of the remarks. Present your findings to the class.

Learning Standard: Focusing on meaning and communication as they listen, speak, view, read and write in personal, social, occupational and civic contexts.

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