

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Danger in the Toy Chest

Are Buckyballs in your toy chest? If so, beware! Buckyballs may be dangerous. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that some children have been severely injured after swallowing toys like Buckyballs that are made from rare-earth magnets. The Commission filed a complaint against the Maxfield & Oberton company that makes Buckyballs, demanding that it stop producing the product. After 11 other manufacturers of similar products halted production, Maxfield & Oberton stopped selling them because the legal dispute with the consumer agency was proving expensive. As a class, talk about toys that could be unsafe for small children. Then find toy ads in the eEdition. Pick out three toys and write out a safety tip or concern for each toy.

Common Core/National Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience; engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.

2 Abby Came Home

An Alaskan family with three children was upset when their 8-year-old dog Abby went missing during a snowstorm. They had raised their pet from a puppy after getting her from an animal shelter and were particularly worried because Abby is blind. As days passed, and temperatures dropped to 40 below zero, the family never expected to see Abby again. But 10 days later, she showed up in a yard 10 miles away. She was returned to her owners — apparently none the worse for her adventure, not even frost-bitten! It was, said one of the owners, “the most amazing Christmas gift we could ever ask for.” With a partner, scan the eEdition to find a photo or mention of an animal that interests you. Brainstorm an adventure this animal could have and write the first two paragraphs of a creative story about the adventure.

Common Core/National Standard: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

3 Search for NFL News

The NFL Playoffs are heating up as teams compete for the right to play in Super Bowl XLVII on February 3. Every day, your eEdition allows you to find stories that interest you and to search recent editions of the eEdition for related stories. Go to the sports section of the eEdition and scan the pages for a story about the NFL Playoffs. Read the story and write a short paragraph explaining the news and why it interests you. Then pair off with a classmate and use the Advanced Search feature in the toolbar at the top of the page to find other stories on the playoffs. Find the stories electronically and read one each aloud in an indoor voice.

Common Core/National Standards: Defining subject searching and devising a search strategy to locate information using available electronic research resources; demonstrating knowledge of changes in technologies and the effect those changes have.

4 One Thing or an Udder

Milk is good for you, of course, but too much milk isn't. Cow's milk is the primary source of Vitamin D for children, but dairy products can interfere with how the body absorbs the health mineral iron, so pediatricians have been seeking the right balance. Researchers have concluded that for most children, two cups of milk a day is enough to maintain sufficient Vitamin D without affecting iron levels. However, they warn this varies from child to child, depending on the season of the year, body mass and even skin color. Find a food in the eEdition that is healthy for children to eat. Use what you find to design a poster showing the benefits of this food.

Common Core/National Standard: Using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

5 Now, the Otters Can Swim Wherever They Wish

Good news for sea otters: You can swim wherever you choose off the coast of California. This hasn't been the case for a while. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had established an otter-free zone off the California coast because fishermen complained that the creatures threatened the shellfish supply and the U.S. Navy felt they were interfering with training exercises. But in a victory for environmental groups,

the government has ended the policy, which the otters have generally been ignoring anyway. At one time, the number of sea otters had declined a great deal because their glossy coats made them a target for fur traders. But they have been increasing to the point where, in a few years, they may be taken off the endangered species list. As a class, look in the eEdition or online to find endangered animals. Use what you find to write what threats one species faces and what is being done to protect it. Draw a picture of your animal to go with your writing.

Common Core/National Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience; using drawings or visual displays to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 Tessa, Come Home

The name “Harry Potter” is known the world over; and probably will be for generations to come. Your name, too, might be destined for immortality. All you have to do is find and return the dog Tessa, which recently vanished from the home of author Dennis Lehane in Brookline, Massachusetts. As a reward, Lehane (whose novels include the bestseller “Mystic River”) will name a character after you in the book he’s currently writing. Lehane is one of America’s most successful novelists, specializing in crime and mystery stories. In the eEdition, find a story about a crime or mystery that needs to be solved. Write a summary of what police or investigators know about the case. Then write a paragraph describing a possible outcome. And if you run into Tessa anywhere, get her back home. It could mean everlasting fame!

Common Core/National Standard: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

2 Why Are Trees Dying?

Forests are in trouble. Trees are dying, and scientists are not exactly sure why. Heat, drought or bugs are the usual causes, but experts are unsure why some trees survive while others now die. To find answers, plant physiologists at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico have set up a kind of intensive care unit to learn how trees die. They hope to learn what happens deep inside a tree during stress and how slowly or quickly different species die. The experiment centers around pinyon and juniper trees, but scientists say the findings can be generalized to all species. In the eEdition or online find stories about forests or forest conservation efforts. Write a short essay explaining why forests are important to people and wildlife as natural habitats.

Common Core/National Standards: Citing textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task.

3 How Sweet the Loot

A warehouse in the Canadian province of Quebec was the target recently of a massive heist. Was cash stolen? No. The “loot” was maple syrup. Quebec produces up to 80 percent of the world’s maple syrup, and the scene of the crime was a warehouse, reportedly holding 10 million pounds of the stuff, valued at \$30 million. Authorities have not disclosed the exact amount of maple syrup stolen, but they have arrested three people on charges of theft, conspiracy, fraud and trafficking in stolen goods. In the eEdition or online, find a story about something produced in your state. Design an ad promoting this product and why people should buy it.

Common Core/National Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience; using drawings or visual displays to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

4 Let’s Go Shopping!

After the December holidays, many stores offer sales to get customers into their stores in January. Your eEdition contains ads as well as stories and photos, and can be used to find the best deals. In today’s eEdition, find an ad offering a sale for an item you would like to have. Then search the eEdition for other ads offering the same item, or a similar item, on sale. Compare prices and the locations of stores. Write a paragraph explaining where you would purchase the item and why. Finish by writing a paragraph describing how using an eEdition is different from print for finding products to buy, along with the advantages and disadvantages.

Common Core/National Standards: Using a variety of technology tools for data collection and analysis; comparing information technologies from the past and present.

5 Hosing Down Can’t Save a Whale Visiting the Big City

Nothing surprises New Yorkers – they say they’ve seen everything – but a whale? A dying 60-foot finback was beached recently on the bay side of Breezy Point on a stretch of Queens shoreline still littered with debris from Hurricane Sandy. Even at about 60 tons, the animal was severely underweight, “so emaciated there’s nothing we can do,” said an expert on rescuing stranded marine mammals. The

whale’s body was scratched in places, but there were no signs it had been hit by a boat. Trying to keep the whale alive was a challenge, but disposing of its body is even more a problem. The body will be dissected for post-mortem examination so towing it out to sea will be impossible. And finding a place to bury a giant carcass can be difficult in an urban area. The finback is the world’s second largest whale species and is on the endangered species list. As a class, find a story in the eEdition or online about animals and humans interacting. Write a summary of challenges and problems this interaction can cause.

Common Core/National Standard: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

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grades 9-12

1

Online Nose-Count

The U.S. Census is as old as the nation's Constitution, which requires that a census be taken every 10 years to count the population. The Census is also as new as cyber science. Over the years, the Census Bureau has made use of advances in technology – and it still does. Households in this year's Census Bureau American Community Survey – on which distribution of more than \$400 billion in federal funds is based – are asked to respond online. Any household that doesn't respond in two weeks will receive a paper survey by snail-mail, followed by telephone and in-person interviews. As a class, check the Constitution to locate the clause that calls for a Census. Then use the eEdition to brainstorm questions about life in the United States that you think the Census should ask to help people understand important issues.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; posing and responding to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text or issue under discussion.

2

Pardon, Mon ex-Colony

Algerians want France to apologize for the “suffering” that was “inflicted” on the Algerian people by French colonialism. In his address to Algeria's Parliament on the 50th anniversary of Algerian independence, French President Francois Hollande conceded the “suffering,” but he never actually apologized for the years during which Algeria was a French colony in Africa. Presumably, he and the others in the French delegation of about 200 believe their participation in the ceremony was sufficient. Some observers have hailed the new French president's “new tone,” but others chalked it up to economic motivation; France remains Algeria's major trading partner. In the eEdition or online, find a story about the relationship between two different countries. Write a summary of the relationship today, its history and the challenges that still exist.

Common Core/National Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task; citing textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.

3

Conjunction Search

The Search and Advanced Search features of the eEdition are a great tool for finding information. They also are a great tool for building vocabulary and word power. Conjunctions are words that connect words, phrases, clauses or sentences. Examples include “and,” “but,” “if” or “when.” Use the search features of the eEdition to find which conjunctions are used most often in news writing. Search for “and,” “but,” “if” or “when” and at least two other conjunctions you choose as a class. Share your findings as a class and discuss. Then write a paragraph describing how having search functions makes the eEdition an effective tool for gathering information.

Common Core/National 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.

4

Too Attractive For the Job

The Iowa Supreme Court has ruled that it's legal for a boss to fire an employee he sees as an “irresistible attraction,” even if she has done nothing wrong. The all-male court was supporting a dentist who fired an assistant after 10 years, because he and his wife viewed her as a threat to their marriage. In the majority opinion, the court stated that the ouster was not unlawful because it was motivated by feelings and emotions, not gender. As a class, discuss the Iowa court ruling and whether you think it is appropriate. Then see what you can find in your eEdition or online on the subject of job fairness or sex discrimination, and write a summary of one case or situation.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; posing and responding to specific questions with elaboration; producing clear writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task.

5

The Name of the Game Reflects Corporate Sponsor

Once upon a time, there were only a few bowl games, played on or near New Year's Day, and college football teams with the best won-lost records played in them. But TV coverage and corporate tie-ins have spawned 35 bowl games and some of the teams playing in them have pretty mediocre records. When there were only a few of these classics, they were named for regional characteristics, such as the

Cotton and Orange bowls, but now they bear the names of sponsoring companies and their products, like Meineke Car Care and Chick fil-A. Colleges welcome selection for many bowl games, because they receive a portion of TV receipts. But some schools sending teams to less prestigious bowls have actually lost money or just broken even. In your eEdition or online, find a list of this year's bowl games. Design a line or bar graph to show the number of wins teams in bowls had this year.

Common Core/National Standards: Summarizing and describing distributions; using charts, graphs and tables to display information.

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