

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Watch the Volcano

It's often said that volcanoes are among the most amazing things on Earth. Now one in the South American country of Ecuador is about to give the world a show. Scientists say the volcano named Tungurahua (toon-GOO-raw-wah) is about to erupt in a big way in the center of the country. The volcano, whose name means "throat of fire" in the language of Ecuador's native people, has been spouting rock, flames and ashes into the air for more than a week and thousands of villagers have been moved to safety. As a class, talk about other ways nature can cause concerns or danger for people. Then look for examples of nature making news in your eEdition. Talk about ways people could remain safe when faced with a natural event that could be dangerous.

Learning Standard: Locating and describing major environmental features of the United States and other regions of the world; generating questions about issues that affect students or topics about which they are curious.

2 Super Football

The playoffs are the most exciting time of year for the National Football League. Last weekend the NFL conference championship games decided which teams will face off in this year's Super Bowl on February 3. All this week, stories will be comparing the two teams and trying to make predictions about which will win the Super Bowl. In teams or pairs, follow the stories this week. Then pretend you are sportswriters for the eEdition and write the beginning of a sports story describing what you think will be the most important thing determining who will win this year's Super Bowl.

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

3 Be Prepared

The Boy Scouts got their start 100 years ago on January 24, 1908. Since that time, the group has worked to provide boys with programs in which they can have fun and learn skills. Look through today's eEdition for stories or advertisements about groups or activities for kids, or about events that are designed to attract kids. Then imagine you are in charge of making a new club for kids. Write a short paragraph describing what your club would be and what it would offer.

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

4 Exploring eEditions

Your eEdition allows you to read and use newspapers with a few key-strokes or clicks of a mouse from a home or school computer. Explore your eEdition by turning to Page 1 on your computer. Click on a story to show it in a display presentation. Then click to show it as text only. Discuss what differences you see and the advantages of each way the story is shown. Finish by writing a short paragraph describing the advantages of having different ways to display and read stories with the eEdition.

Learning Standards: Using appropriate technology resources to access information and communicate electronically; describing uses of technology in daily life.

5 Making Questions

As a class, read a short story in the eEdition today. On your own, imagine that you are a teacher, and come up with three questions about the story that your class has read. Swap questions with another student and answer each other's questions. Then, as a class, see if you can find answers to any questions that stumped you or your classmates.

Learning Standard: Employing multiple strategies to construct meaning, including the use of sentence structure, vocabulary skills, context clues, text structure, mapping, predicting, retelling and generating questions.

Question 1: _____

Answer 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Answer 2: _____

Question 3: _____

Answer 3: _____

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow

news {..BOTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 Don't Judge a Dog by Its Underbite

After being missing for 75 years, bulldogs have made it back onto the American Kennel Club's list of the Top 10 most popular purebred dogs. Though they look ferocious with their broad shoulders and exposed underbite, bulldogs are generally very docile and even-tempered, dog breeders say. People, animals and objects often aren't like their appearances. But sometimes they are! Look at three pictures of people in today's eEdition with whom you aren't familiar. Don't read the captions, stories or headlines that go with the pictures. On a separate piece of paper, make five guesses about each person, perhaps what he or she does for a living, or where he or she is from. Then see if you were right.

Learning Standards: Judging decisions from the past; engaging each other in conversations to explore issues.

2 MLK

This week the nation celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The murdered civil rights leader used his strength, intellect and charisma to rally African Americans to fight peacefully for equality. He also touched the hearts of many white people and made them really see the unfairness of laws, rules and social customs in the nation. Look through this week's eEdition for a woman or a person from an ethnic minority (or someone who is both) who is accomplishing great things in social justice. Do some research about the person and create a brief biography of her or him in your own words. Present your biography orally to the class or share in groups.

Learning Standard: Describing and using characteristics of various informational genres (e.g., biographies, newspapers, brochures, persuasive arguments and essays) and elements of expository text structure to convey ideas.

3 New Old Tree

A "new" type of self-destructing palm tree has been discovered on the island of Madagascar off the southeastern coast of Africa. This tree, scientists report, flowers once every 100 years and then dies. Read an article in this week's eEdition about another scientific discovery. Or find an example online. Each time you come across a word or phrase that is unfamiliar in the story, jot it down. Then, look up the words, and see how they make sense in the story. Finally, create a glossary of terms for the story using your own words, not the dictionary's.

Learning Standard: Employing multiple strategies to construct meaning, such as generating questions, studying vocabulary, analyzing mood and tone, recognizing how authors use information, generalizing ideas, matching form to content and developing reference skills.

4 Movies in eEditions

Your eEdition contains everything included each day in the print edition of the newspaper. That includes ads as well as stories and photos. On a day when the eEdition includes movie ads, find an ad for a movie you would like to see. Click on the ad to show your friends. Then find an ad or listing that will tell you where and when you could see this movie. Print out two or three choices. Finish by writing a paragraph describing how using an eEdition is different from print for finding movies, along with the advantages and disadvantages.

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

5 MLK Day of Service

On Martin Luther King Day, many people use their day off to help others. Look in Tuesday's eEdition for an example of this. Write a sentence at right summarizing the most important news of the story. Then summarize who was helped, who was helping, how they helped, where and when this happened and why it was needed.

Learning Standard: Organizing, analyzing and synthesizing information to draw conclusions and implications based on investigation of an issue.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

1

Changing Media

The ongoing writers' strike in Hollywood has highlighted how changes in technology – such as the availability of television programs on the Internet – have consequences across an industry. One of the key issues in the strike is how writers might be compensated for material distributed through “new media” such as Internet sites. Different forms of technology allow the media to present information in a variety of ways to reach different audiences. Find an article or opinion in the eEdition and consider how the material in the article would be presented through a Web site or a television news show. Write an adaptation of the article for the Internet or a script for the evening news.

Learning Standards: Identifying and explaining how individuals in history demonstrate good character and personal virtue; representing creatively.

2

Gold Rush

On January 24, 1848, gold was discovered near San Francisco. The find would launch the California Gold Rush, as people flocked to America's West Coast with dreams of striking it rich. Towns developed exclusively for hopeful gold miners were later abandoned when little gold was found. Look through your eEdition, or use the Internet, to find stories and information about natural resources that are mined, harvested or collected today. Write a short essay explaining how these natural resources are obtained and what effect human harvesting of these resources has on the Earth and the environment.

Learning Standards: Describing the influence of the American concept of democracy and individual rights in the world; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

3

A Closer Look

Last week, Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich agreed with Republican candidate Albert Howard to pay the starting fee for a recount of the New Hampshire presidential primary vote after voicing concern over errors in the voting process. Neither candidate received a significant number of votes, but both believe that the political process needs careful monitoring to ensure democracy. Look through today's eEdition for an article about other people who are protecting or promoting democracy. Or find an example online. Write a short summary of the article.

Learning Standard: Describing and using the characteristics of various oral, visual and written texts and the textual aids they employ to convey meaning and inspire audiences.

4

Searching in Your eEdition

An eEdition allows you to keep up with the news every day. It also allows you to make sense of the news. Search or Advanced Search features of eEditions allow you to search recent editions of the paper for stories and topics that interest you. You may search by keywords or using “Boolean” phrases and commands that will narrow the search. Explore the search capabilities of your eEdition by searching for news on a topic that interests you. Write a paragraph describing how the ability to search eEditions can give people greater understanding of news. Compare search tips.

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

5

Day of Service

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is sometimes observed as a day of service in the community. Look through your eEdition, or use the Internet, to find ongoing service projects on a global or local level. Write an idea for a service project, then a short essay about how you could become active in a service project. Be sure to include the goals of the project, and what it would require its participants to do.

Learning Standard: Applying knowledge, ideas and issues drawn from texts to students' lives and the lives of others.

My Service Project

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow