

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

## 1 India

In 1989 the government of the Asian nation of India started building a 15-mile road that would connect a few small villages with a city called Shillong, so the villagers could get to the city to sell their crops more easily. But the government never finished the road. So last week a group of villagers decided enough was enough. They gathered tools and went to work to finish the road themselves. They hope to complete it in less than a month. Look through the eEdition and find another example of a group of people teaming up to get something done, whether it's building a house, passing a law, distributing food to the needy or something else. Write a summary of what the group is doing and how they're accomplishing it.

Learning Standard: Writing fluently for multiple purposes to produce compositions, such as personal narratives, persuasive essays, lab reports and poetry.

## 2 Courts

Justice Sonia Sotomayor officially joined the U.S. Supreme Court last week when it reconvened after summer break. Sotomayor is the first Hispanic and just the third woman to serve on the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the country, and it can pick and choose which cases it hears. Other courts aren't so lucky. In groups, use the eEdition, books and the Internet to create a diagram that shows the different types of courts in America's judicial system, including state courts and federal courts. For each, write a sentence that explains what types of cases people would bring before that court.

Learning Standards: Acquiring information from multiple sources and then evaluating, organizing and communicating it in various contexts; identifying the purposes of national, state and local governments in the United States; describing how citizens organize government.

## 3 Morals

Famous children's writer Roald Dahl was born on September 13, 1916. He wrote "Matilda" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." Both were made into movies. Many children's stories include a lesson, or moral, woven into the tale. A moral might be "don't judge people by the way they look," or "be kind" or "don't lie." Find an article in the eEdition that interests you. Then write a short story for children based on a person, event or location in the article. Include a moral in your story.

Learning Standards: Demonstrating understanding of the complexity of enduring issues and recurring problems by making connections and generating themes within and across texts; reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, viewing critically and representing creatively.

## 4 eEdition Prefixes

Electronic editions allow you to search their content for stories or topics that interest you. This ability to search also can help you build vocabulary and word skills. You can search, for example, 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 prefix "un" appears. Remember to leave a space before the "un" 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.

## 5 Uncle Sam

According to American lore, the "Uncle Sam" character that is a symbol for the United States was based on Sam Wilson of Troy, New York, a meat packer who supplied meat to the United States Army. Wilson stamped U.S. on the barrels of beef – short for "United States" – but soldiers began

calling the food "Uncle Sam's." On September 15, 1961, the U.S. Congress decided to make the story official, and adopted a resolution stating that "Congress salutes Uncle Sam Wilson of Troy, New York, as the progenitor of America's national symbol of Uncle Sam." Look through the eEdition and find examples of other symbols. They can represent towns, countries, concepts or anything else. In teams, design a symbol for your class. Write a few sentences explaining what the symbol means. Share your team's symbol with your classmates. Then hold a vote to see which symbol should be the official class icon.

Learning Standards: Focusing on meaning and communication while listening, speaking, viewing, reading and writing in personal, social, occupational, and civic contexts; representing creatively.

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