

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

## 1 Pollution From Power

Power plants are some of the most important factories in the world. Powered by oil, coal or nuclear energy, they create electricity used in homes, schools and businesses. Some power plants, however, also create pollution as they make electricity, releasing chemicals into the air or water near them. Now the nation's Environmental Protection Agency wants to tighten up controls on water pollution from power plants. For the first time in 30 years, the EPA plans to strengthen water pollution controls on power plants that run on coal to protect water quality and wildlife nearby. As a class, talk about the different ways pollution can enter the water or air of an area. Then find a photo of an outdoor scene in the eEdition. Make a list on a sheet of paper of things that could create pollution in the scene in the photo.

Learning Standards: Describing positive and negative effects of humans on nature and wildlife; explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; acquiring information from multiple sources and then organizing, presenting and analyzing it.

## 2 Pool Safety

Chlorine is a chemical put into swimming pools to kill germs. But for some children, it can cause other problems. Scientists from the European country of Belgium reported last week that swimming in pools that have chlorine may increase the risk of kids getting the breathing condition known as asthma or allergies like hay fever. In a study of teenagers, researchers found that teens who spent more than 100 hours swimming in chlorinated pools were up to six times more at risk of having asthma than other teens and three to six times more likely to have hay fever. As a class, talk about health issues that affect kids your age most. Then find and read a health story in the eEdition as a class. Use images from the eEdition to design a poster explaining the issue to others.

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; comprehending what constitutes good health.

## 3 eEdition Suffixes

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 suffix appears. As a class, review how suffixes are added to the end of words to change their meaning. Some common ones are "able," "ity," "ment," "tion," "ive" or "less." As a class, discuss which you think are used most often. Then search today's eEdition to see how often different suffixes appear.

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 Lightning in Space

The first flashes of lightning were observed way back in January on the ringed planet Saturn. Since then, the storm has raged on and on, making it the longest-lasting lightning storm ever observed in the Earth's solar system, scientists reported last week. The storm was first spotted by the U.S. space probe Cassini, which is orbiting the planet Saturn more than 800 million miles from Earth. As a class, look for news stories about space or space missions in the eEdition. Or find examples online. Pick one and write a short paragraph describing why it is interesting or important.

Learning Standards: Explaining how we learn about the universe; explaining how scientists decide what constitutes scientific knowledge; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

## 5 Harry Potter World

The Harry Potter books and movies have attracted millions of fans to the "Wizarding World" created by author J.K. Rowling. Next spring, fans can make a high-tech visit to that world at a new amusement park at Universal Orlando Resort in Florida. The "Wizarding World of Harry Potter" will

feature a ride called "Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey," which will shoot visitors through a 700-foot-tall version of the Hogwarts Castle where Harry goes to school in the books and movies. There also will be rides called "Dragon Challenge," "Triwizard Tournament" and "Flight of the Hippogriff" at the new park, which was announced last week. With friends and classmates talk about books and movies you have seen that could be turned into interesting theme parks. Brainstorm ideas for rides and attractions that would be at the park. Then design an ad for the eEdition telling people about your park.

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; representing creatively.

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