

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 Graphics or Text?

An eEdition allows you to view stories the way they are displayed graphically in the print newspaper or as text-only files. Each way to display things has its advantages. Search the different sections of today's eEdition and find one story you feel would be best viewed if displayed as text only and one story you feel would be best viewed graphically. Write a paragraph explaining why one story was better viewed when displayed as it was in the newspaper and why the other was more effective as a text-only display. Finish by writing a paragraph explaining how this choice could affect the way you save stories when doing research projects for school.

Learning Standards: Making informed choices among technology systems, resources and services; creating criteria to compare and contrast technology systems, resources and services.

2 Dinosaur Lite

Scientists recently discovered a fossil of an earlier, smaller version of the Tyrannosaurus rex in China. The smaller dinosaur, named Raptorex kriegsteini, had a big head, tiny arms and long feet like the T. rex, but was only about 9 feet tall and 150 pounds – much, much smaller than the massive Tyrannosaurus. Look through the eEdition and find an example of another scientific discovery or breakthrough. Write a summary of what the discovery is, how scientists discovered it and what impact it might have. Draw a diagram or image to go with your summary.

Learning Standards: Asking questions that help students learn about the world; learning from books and other sources of information; communicating findings using appropriate technology; using the craft of the illustrator to convey ideas artistically.

3 Prize Winner

Finalists for the National Book Awards will be announced in mid-October, which is National Book Month. What book would you like to see win a prize? Pick a book you have read and enjoyed. Think about some of the themes in the book. Look through the eEdition and find articles that touch on some of the same themes. Write a letter to the National Book Awards selection committee recommending the book for an award. Include reasons why the book is relevant to what's going on in the world today, based on the articles you found.

Learning Standards: Using oral, written and visual texts to identify and research issues of importance that confront adolescents, their community, their nation and the world; analyzing themes and central ideas in literature and other texts in relation to issues in students' own lives.

4 Heritage

Hispanic Heritage Month is going on right now. Who is Hispanic? Using the Internet, make a list of all the countries Hispanic Americans and their ancestors come from. In groups, look through the eEdition this month and find articles that mention the countries you listed. Or find articles online. See if you can find at least one article for every country. For each article, write two or three sentences summarizing it. In your group, talk about what you learned about each country, based on the articles.

Learning Standards: Describing, comparing and explaining the locations and characteristics of races, cultures and settlements; acquiring information from multiple sources.

5 BRB

In an Associated Press article last week, reporter Beth Harpaz discussed texting, and how parents can use it to keep in touch with their teens. Harpaz suggested that instead of being wary of it, parents should learn the language of texting – the abbreviations and misspellings –

and use it to make sure their kids are okay when they're out and about. Look through the eEdition and find a short article that interests you. Rewrite the article in texting "code." Use common abbreviations where you can, and make up the rest – but make it easy to decipher. Then trade your rewritten article with a classmate and see if the classmate can figure out what the article says.

Learning Standards: Recognizing and using levels of discourse appropriate for varied contexts, purposes and audiences, including terminology specific to a particular field; showing how themes of science and mathematics apply in real world contexts.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow