

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

1 Graph it

Stories about the economy have been in the news a lot lately, and many of them include numbers: how the government is distributing money, how the stock market is moving, how many people are being laid off by companies and so on. Explore news about the economy by using the Search or Advanced Search function of the eEdition and searching for the word "economy." Read one of the stories you find and figure out the best way to present the information in a graph or chart. Then make the graph or chart. Write a paragraph explaining ways that graphs or charts can be effective for displaying and organizing information.

Learning Standards: Understanding the operations and functions of technology systems and becoming proficient in the use of technology; organizing data using tables, charts, graphs, spreadsheets and data bases.

2 Environment

Last week President Obama told the government it has to make some big changes to help the environment. Obama wants all government agencies to use less water and less gasoline, produce less trash and create a smaller amount of greenhouse gases (the gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and raise the Earth's temperature through global warming). In groups, use the eEdition and the Internet to research an issue that affects the environment. It can be on Obama's list, or something else. Create a presentation for the class that explains what the problem is and what steps people can take to fix it.

Learning Standards: Developing questions or problems for investigation that can be answered empirically; explaining the causes and importance of global issues involving cultural change, economic development, resource use, environmental impact, conflict and cooperation.

3 inventor

Inventor Elwood Haynes was born on October 14, 1857. He invented one of the first cars, as well as the thermostat and a type of metal called stainless steel. Find a story in the eEdition about a person or group of people trying to accomplish something. Come up with an idea for an invention that would make the task easier. It can be a brand-new invention, or something that enhances an existing invention. Design an eEdition advertisement promoting your invention. Share it with the class.

Learning Standards: Communicating information accurately and effectively and demonstrating expressive abilities by creating oral, written and visual texts that enlighten and engage an audience; representing creatively.

4 Budgeting

An elementary school in Ireland has asked parents to pack something extra in their kids' backpacks: toilet paper. The school is low on funds, so it's looking for ways to cut costs. Look through the eEdition and online for stories about how other schools or businesses are saving money. What are some money-saving ideas you could adopt for yourself? Make a chart that shows how much money you spend in an average month, and what you spend it on. Write down a list of ways you could adjust your budget to save, and a few ideas for what you'd do with the extra money.

Learning Standards: Collecting and exploring data; organizing data into a useful form; developing skill in representing and reading data displayed in different formats.

5 Food Scare

Eating vegetables, especially leafy greens like spinach, is supposed to be a good thing. But a new study released last week — and reported in many major news outlets — puts leafy greens first on a list of risky foods. The Center for Science in the Public Interest said that leafy greens can harbor

illness-causing germs when not properly washed. Read the eEdition and online news sources and watch the TV news for stories warning people about dangers in life — alarming foods, dangerous toys, a flu outbreak or anything else. Make a list of all the stories you find. As a class, talk about the stories and why the media loves to alert people of potential risks. How does an informed individual know what's real, and what's hype?

Learning Standards: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about matters of public concern by clarifying issues, considering opposing views and working toward making decisions; acquiring information from multiple sources.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow