

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 Statehood

On October 18, 1867, the United States took control of Alaska. The U.S. had purchased it from Russia. Nearly 92 years later, Alaska became the nation's 49th state. How many U.S. states can you name? In groups, write down as many states as you can think of, without using any resources. Compare your list with the rest of the class to see which group came up with the most. Use an atlas or online map to add the states you forgot to your list, so your group has all 50. Then read the eEdition this week. When someone in your group finds a state mentioned in the eEdition, check it off on your group's list and write one or two sentences summarizing why it was in the news. See how many states your group can check off.

Learning Standards: Acquiring information from books, maps, eEditions, data sets and other sources; organizing and presenting the information; interpreting the meaning and significance of the information.

2 Veggie Spider

Scientists have discovered a vegetarian spider. The Bagheera kiplingi, which lives in Central America, eats plants, not insects or animals. But even though it doesn't act like other spiders, the Bagheera kiplingi is still in the class Arachnida, like all spiders, and in the family Salticidae, which includes jumping spiders. Look through articles and ads in the eEdition and find three different animals mentioned. Use research resources to make a chart that shows the family, genus and species for each animal (for example, people are in the family Hominidae, the genus Homo and the species Homo sapiens). Write a sentence or two for each animal that explains what is has in common with other animals in its family.

Learning Standards: Using classification systems to describe groups of living things; analyzing how parts of living things are adapted to carry out specific functions; comparing and classifying organisms into major groups on the basis of their structure.

3 Xerox

Chester Carlson made the first "xerographic copy" of a printed piece of paper on October 22, 1938. His invention led to the development of the copy machine. A small company called Haloid bought the rights to develop the machine. The company later changed its name to Xerox. Look through the eEdition and find five devices or products that you use regularly. Write down what each product is designed to accomplish. Now pretend those five products don't exist. For each, write a few sentences explaining how you would accomplish the same things without the products.

Learning Standards: Generating scientific questions about the world based on observation; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

4 Comeback

The Philadelphia Phillies were down 4-2 in the eighth inning of their National League playoff game against the Colorado Rockies. They quickly got two outs in the ninth inning. But then they came back to score three runs and win the game and a spot in the National League Championship Series. Look through the eEdition or online and find an example of a person coming back from behind, or overcoming an obstacle, in order to accomplish something. Pretend you're a reporter and write an eEdition article about the person's accomplishment.

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

5 Halloween Costumes

Halloween is one of the most popular holidays in the country. And with Halloween less than two weeks away, people all over the country are looking for costumes. Your eEdition allows you to search stories for information you need. It also allows you to quickly view ads to find things you want.

Learning Standards: Using prescribed technology tools for data collection and analysis; describing uses of technology in daily life.

Use the Search Features to find news about "Halloween costumes" in the eEdition this week and next. What are the most popular costumes this year? Then scan or search the ads in the eEdition for Halloween costumes on sale. Use what you find to choose a costume you would like to wear for Halloween. Or use what you find to design a costume you would like to wear for Halloween. Share your ideas with the class and discuss how having Search Features helps readers find what they want in an eEdition.

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for Tomorrow