

# news BYTES

for eEditions

grades 2-5

## 1 32 New Planets!

How many planets are there out in space? In our Earth's solar system, there are eight planets, plus Pluto, which used to be considered a planet but is now classified as a smaller "dwarf planet." Outside our solar system there are hundreds of planets orbiting around other stars like our sun. This month astronomers from the continent of Europe announced they have found 32 planets outside Earth's solar system. Their discovery increased the number of planets known to exist outside our solar system to more than 400. As a class, find and read stories about exploring space in the eEdition or online. Write a complete sentence describing something you would like to see scientists explore in space.

Learning Standards: Explaining how we learn about the universe; comparing and contrasting our planet and sun to other planets and star systems; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

## 2 Willow Power

All over the world, people are looking for new fuels to provide energy for homes, schools and businesses. In the state of Vermont, Middlebury College is turning to willow power. The college is planting fast-growing willow trees to see if they can provide a renewable source of the wood chips the college now burns to provide about half the heat for buildings on campus. The wood chips have cut the college's heating oil bill by more than \$700,000, but the school is worried that the demand for wood chips could lead to too much cutting in nearby forests. As a class, talk about different ways people are trying to "go green" to help the environment. Find a story about people "going green" in the eEdition or online. Write a short paragraph telling what the people are doing.

Learning Standards: Describing positive and negative effects of humans on nature and wildlife; explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

## 3 Cars and Color

Auto companies make cars in many colors. But where you live may determine what color car you like. That is the surprising finding of sales information released by Ford earlier this month. Buyers in hot-temperature cities like Phoenix, Arizona, like white cars, which reflect the light and heat of sunshine. Buyers in colder cities, like Detroit, Michigan, like red cars, which give a feeling and look of warmth. As a class, talk about what color cars you like. Then find an ad in the eEdition selling a car you like in your favorite color. Write why you like this car and color.

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; developing and applying critical standards for individual use.

## 4 To Be Continued ...

Your eEdition gives you many ways to find stories and information you need. Open the different tool bars at the top of the page until you find the one that shows the different sections of the eEdition. Go to the first page of the entertainment or sports section. Read a story on the page that continues on another page. Then use the toolbar at the top of the page to find the rest of the story. When you find the rest of the story, read it and write a short paragraph telling what it's about.

Learning Standards: Using technology resources for problem-solving, self-directed learning and extended learning activities; discussing the positive and negative impact of technologies such as computers on daily life.

## 5 Nurse's Aide to King

When Charles Wesley Mumbere was 13 years old, he inherited the right to become a king in the African nation of Uganda. But it took 43 years for the 56-year-old Mumbere to officially take over as king of Uganda's Rwenzururu Kingdom. War, changes in government and battles for control among

Learning Standard: Describing, comparing and explaining the locations and characteristics of races, cultures and settlements; using the craft of the illustrator to convey ideas artistically.

Uganda's leaders kept Mumbere from power in his family's kingdom. So he came to the U.S., trained to be a nurse's aide and worked in hospitals and nursing homes for more than 25 years waiting for a chance to return to his homeland. This summer Uganda President Yoweri Museveni recognized the Rwenzururu Kingdom, and last week Mumbere was finally crowned king of his people. As a class, talk about the differences between places where people are ruled by kings and places like the U.S. where people choose leaders in elections. Draw a comic strip showing what it would be like to be a king of your own kingdom.

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