

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Giraffe Comeback

With their long necks, giraffes are some of the most unusual creatures on the continent of Africa. But in the last 10 years the number of giraffes living in the wild has dropped from more than 140,000 to under 100,000 because their habitats have been destroyed by wars, droughts and construction of homes and highways. In West Africa, wildlife watchers recently have gotten some good news in the nation of Niger. In 1996 giraffes had almost become extinct there with fewer than 50 living in the wild. Now, with the help of protection programs, the population is more than 200. Find a wildlife habitat in the photos of the eEdition. Write a paragraph describing things people could do to help preserve this habitat and the wildlife that live there.

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

2 Oh, Maya!

The Maya people of Mexico and Central America created an amazing world nearly 1,700 years ago. The Maya built beautiful cities, developed picture writing and had great knowledge of math, calendars, agriculture and astronomy. Now scientists who study the Maya have made a great discovery in southern Mexico near the Guatemala border. For the first time they have found wall paintings that show everyday people at work in the Maya cities. Up to now, Maya wall paintings that have been found have only shown scenes of rich and powerful people in the Maya world. With a partner, go through the eEdition and find photos of "everyday" people at work or play. Use what you find to create a wall painting that would show what the lives of everyday people are like in your community.

Learning Standard: Reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively.

3 Good Shoes, Good News

The Soles4Souls program collects "gently used" shoes for people in poorer countries. This month Soles4Souls got a boost from the Finish Line company that makes sports clothing. Finish Line collected 92,500 pairs of used shoes at its 679 stores and donated them to the Soles4Souls program. What's more, the company contributed \$1 for each pair of shoes its customers donated, raising \$92,500 to ship and distribute the shoes. Many organizations work to help people. Find an example in the eEdition and draw a poster showing some of the things this organization does.

Learning Standards: Identifying and explaining how people demonstrate good character and personal virtue; acquiring information from multiple sources; representing creatively.

4 Use That Index!

The front page Index of your eEdition lets you find information about what is inside the newspaper in an easy way. Click on the Index on Page 1 of today's eEdition. Then go to the tool bar at the top or side of the page and find the pull-down that offers readers a Visual or Graphic Mode and a Text Mode. With the Index open, try each mode. What do you see with each mode? What are the advantages of each mode? Finish by writing a complete sentence explaining which mode you think you would use the most.

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

5 Exercise No Problem

All over the nation, doctors and health officials are worried that American kids are getting heavier. The number of teens and pre-teens who have become extremely overweight has tripled in the last 30 years. Many health experts say it's because kids don't get as much exercise as kids of the

past. But a new study by researchers at Johns Hopkins University has found that kids today get about the same amount of exercise as kids 20 or more years ago. The problem is that they are eating more high-fat, high-sugar, high-calorie foods. Kids who eat these foods have to exercise more to burn off the extra calories they contain. Exercise comes in many forms, and not all of it is the kind you get playing on sports teams. Search the stories, photos and ads in the eEdition for examples of exercise kids could do with their friends or families. Draw a comic strip for the eEdition showing you trying one exercise for the first time.

Learning Standards: Responding to a variety of texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others; comprehending what constitutes good health and nutrition; using the craft of the illustrator to represent ideas artistically.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow