

# news BYTES

for eEditions

grades 2-5

## 1 Ice on the Move

As temperatures rise around the world as a result of global warming, scientists are closely studying what is happening to ice in areas around the Earth's North and South Poles. This month, scientists got a new look at results from the South Pole region of Antarctica when photos showed hundreds of icebergs traveling north toward the Pacific Ocean country of New Zealand. The icebergs – some more than 650 feet wide – were created when a huge sheet of ice split off from Antarctica this summer. As a class, talk about ways global warming could change life for people, wildlife, habitats and ecosystems. Then draw a comic strip for the eEdition showing one way warming could affect people.

Learning Standards: Describing positive and negative effects of humans on nature and wildlife; explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; using the craft of the illustrator to express ideas artistically.

## 2 Groups & Communities

Every person is a member of different groups and communities. Communities could include chocolate lovers, people from Michigan, redheads, Arab Americans, 10-year-olds or tuba players. When President Obama makes news, he may do so as a president, an American, a father, a resident of Illinois, a basketball fan or a world leader. Find another newsmaker in today's eEdition and make a list of communities and groups to which he or she may belong. Now make a list for yourself. Compare your list with those of your classmates.

Learning Standard: Describing how characters in literature and other texts can represent members of several different communities.

## 3 What a Croc!

Talk about Where the Wild Things Are! Scientists have uncovered a fossil of a wild and fierce crocodile that lived in northern Africa millions of years ago that had three sets of fangs and a 20-foot body! The huge croc was one of three fossil finds announced this month as part of fossil digs sponsored by the National Geographic Society. As a class, talk about what scientists can learn from fossils. Then find a photo of an animal in today's eEdition. Study the photo and write what scientists could learn from it or its surroundings, if they discovered its fossil in the future.

Learning Standards: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; explaining how fossils provide evidence about the nature of ancient life; showing how science concepts can be interpreted through creative expression such as language arts and fine arts.

## 4 Holiday Party

December is a big month for holidays, with celebrations for Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Pretend you are planning a holiday party for this weekend. Scan the ads in the eEdition for foods or decorations you would like for your party. Then print out the ads for the items you would like to buy. Compare prices so that you get the most for your money, and write a paragraph explaining what you would purchase. Write a second paragraph describing how the eEdition helped you plan your holiday party.

Learning Standards: Understanding the operations and functions of technology systems and becoming proficient in the use of technology; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

## 5 An Award for Courage

Everyone knows the story of how Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man and wrote one of the most important chapters of the civil rights movement. But did you know a 15-year old girl showed the same courage and did the same thing in Montgomery, Alabama – nine

months before Rosa Parks made national news? The story of this courageous teenager has been told in a new book for young people called "Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice," which just was honored with a National Book Award. The 70-year-old Colvin was onstage with author Phillip Hoose when the award was announced November 18 in New York City. As a class, talk about different ways people show courage. Then find a person in the eEdition who is showing courage. Write a paragraph explaining how.

Learning Standards: Identifying and explaining how people demonstrate good character and personal virtue; acquiring information from multiple sources; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

A Teaching Tool  
for Tomorrow