

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

## 1 To Your Health

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is cautioning people to guard against swine flu this holiday season. The concern is that crowded shopping malls and airports might make it easier for the flu to spread. The CDC recommends washing your hands frequently and covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue (or coughing/sneezing into the bend of your elbow). In groups, look through the eEdition for articles about keeping healthy. Create an educational poster for kids your age based on one of the topics you find. For example, the poster might encourage healthy eating or promote exercise.

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.

## 2 Comparison

Last week the prime minister of India, Manmohan Singh, visited the White House to meet with President Obama and attend a dinner held in his honor. After speaking to the press about the relationship between the United States and India, President Obama said that he plans to visit the south Asia nation next year. Using the eEdition, the Internet and other resources, make a chart comparing the U.S. and India. Include size, population, natural resources, type of government, type of economy, unemployment rate, percentage of population below the poverty line, and three other facts you find interesting. The CIA World Factbook is a good resource for comparing nations of the world.

Learning Standards: Describing, comparing and explaining the locations and characteristics of races, cultures, and settlements; acquiring information from multiple sources and then organizing and analyzing it.

## 3 Medicine

The first human heart transplant took place on December 3, 1967, in Cape Town, South Africa. The patient, Louis Washkansky, was suffering from severe heart failure. The surgery was successful, but he died shortly after from pneumonia, a condition in which fluid builds up in the lungs. Use the search functions of the eEdition to find an article about another advance or breakthrough in the world of medicine. Start by searching for the words "medicine" or "breakthrough." Write a short paper explaining what the breakthrough is and what impact it has had or could have in the future.

Learning Standards: Asking questions that help students learn about the world; designing and conducting investigations using appropriate methodology and technology; learning from books and other sources of information; reconstructing previously learned knowledge.

## 4 Philanthropy

Filmmaker Tyler Perry writes, directs and stars in movies. He's best known for *Madea*, a character he created and plays. Now Perry will be known as a philanthropist, too. He just gave \$1 million to the civil rights organization the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in honor of the NAACP's 100th anniversary. In groups, find a news story about someone donating money, time or other resources to help an organization or group of people. Talk about what you think the person's motivations are. Make a list of other ways someone could help the organization or group.

Learning Standard: Considering the effects of an individual's actions on other people, how one acts in accordance with the rule of law and how one acts in a virtuous and ethically responsible way as a member of society.

## 5 Shopping Season

With Christmas, Kwanzaa and Hanukkah, December is a big month for holidays. It also is a big month for shopping, as families seek presents for relatives. Stores that sell gifts count on December shopping to boost their sales and income for the year. As a class, look for stories about holiday

shopping in the eEdition. Talk about all the ways shopping at stores and malls benefits the community and people who live there. Then look through the holiday ads in the eEdition for items you might like to buy for relatives. Pick items for three relatives (don't worry about the cost). Write a sentence for each, explaining why you would give each relative each gift. Then pick something you would like to buy for yourself and write a sentence explaining why.

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; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

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