

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1

Camera Happy

One of the challenges for zoos is how to keep the animals entertained. A zoo in the European country of Austria has come up with a solution that's picture perfect. The zoo gave an orangutan named Nonja a camera! The camera gives Nonja a raisin every time she takes a picture, and Nonja has been taking LOTS of pictures. She also has become something of an Internet star. The zoo created a photo gallery for Nonja on the social Web site Facebook and has been posting her pictures for all the world to see! As a class talk about some of the amazing and interesting things animals can do. Then find a photo of an animal in the eEdition. Write a complete sentence describing two amazing or interesting things this animal can do.

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

2

Hot, Hot, Hot

The last 10 years are about to set a record as the hottest 10-year period since record-keeping for weather began in 1850. That's the word from the United Nations weather agency known as the World Meteorological Organization. At the start of a European meeting of world leaders on weather and climate issues, the agency reported that 2009 is on track to be the fifth hottest year on record. And when final statistics are added to those for the years 2000-2008, the years 2000-2009 "very likely [will] be the warmest on record," the agency's leader said. As a class, talk about ways global warming could affect wildlife or the environment in your area. Then use words and images from the eEdition to design a poster telling people something about global warming.

Learning Standards: Describing positive and negative effects of humans on nature and wildlife; explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively.

3

Holiday Toy Score

The Zhu Zhu Pets robot hamsters are some of the most popular toys for the holidays. But a lot of parents became worried when a group that studies toy safety raised concerns that the toy may contain unsafe levels of a chemical that can cause health problems. The GoodGuide toy group raised the questions, but the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission found that Zhu Zhu Pets meet national safety standards. With a partner, find a toy you would like in an ad in the eEdition. Write a letter to your parents – or to Santa! – explaining why you want this toy and why you should receive it.

Learning Standards: Responding to a variety of texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

4

Do a Search for Charity

Holidays are about getting gifts. But they also are about giving, either to individuals or to charity groups that help others. Your eEdition allows you to search recent editions of the newspaper for stories on subjects that interest you. As a class or with a partner, search the eEdition for several days to find different ways your community is giving to others this holiday season. Start by searching for the word "giving." Then search for the word "charity." Finish by searching for another word you think will show how people are giving to others. Write a paragraph describing what you found.

Learning Standards: Defining subject searching and devising a search strategy to locate information using available electronic research resources; demonstrating knowledge of changes in technologies and the effect those changes have.

5

Space Tourists

Would you like to take a trip into space? Not as an astronaut, but as a tourist going on an adventure. As soon as the year 2011, a few very rich space travelers may get a chance, if plans by the air travel company Virgin Galactic go right. Last week Virgin Galactic gave the public its first look at an

aircraft called SpaceShipTwo that has been designed to take tourists into space, six people at a time. Trips won't be cheap – about \$200,000 per person – but already more than 300 people have signed up. Eventually, Virgin plans to take "thousands" of people into space aboard the 60-foot-long spacecraft, but first it has to be tested to see if it's ready for trips 65 miles into space. As a class, talk about an adventure you would like to have. Then find a place mentioned in the eEdition where you would like to have that adventure. Write the opening paragraph for a story about your adventure in this place.

Learning Standards: Responding to a variety of texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow