

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 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. Alone or with a partner, use the Advanced Search features of the eEdition to find different ways that businesses in your community are giving to others this holiday season. Start by searching for the words “business” and “giving.” Then combine “business” with the word “charity” or “donation.” Write a paragraph summarizing your findings. Then discuss how having the ability to search for recent stories can be a benefit to readers.

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.

2 Prize Winners

The winners of the 2009 Nobel Prizes in chemistry, physics and economics all said that working and sharing ideas with other people helped them perform the research and experiments that led to their awards. In groups use the eEdition to write an open-ended question about an issue in the news (not a “yes or no” question). It could involve your opinion on an issue, how you think a proposed idea will play out, or anything else. Individually, think about how you would answer and take notes on your thoughts. Then get back into the group and talk about the answer. Take notes on the group discussion. As a class, talk about whether you found it more productive to work alone or in the group.

Learning Standards: Focusing on meaning and communication while listening, speaking, viewing, reading and writing in personal, social and civic contexts; analyzing elements of effective communication that impact relationships in schools, families and communities.

3 Amendments

The Bill of Rights, which is made up of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, became law on December 15, 1791. Divide the class into 10 groups, and give each group an amendment from the Bill of Rights. In your group, use the eEdition, books and online sources to create a presentation for the class about the right or rights your amendment ensures. Include court cases that deal with your group’s amendment.

Learning Standards: Explaining the meaning and origin of the ideas, including the core democratic values expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and other foundational documents; explaining how the rule of law protects individual rights.

4 Caroling

“A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens was first published on December 17, 1843. It’s been made into several movies, including a new one this year starring Jim Carrey. The moral of “A Christmas Carol” is that people should be kind and generous. Write your own story with a moral, based on something in the eEdition. Share stories with the class and discuss why your moral is important for people to learn.

Learning Standard: Writing fluently for multiple purposes to produce compositions, such as personal narratives, persuasive essays, lab reports and poetry.

5 Paper Battery

Scientists at Stanford University in California have been working on a new type of battery: one that uses paper. In a report published last week the scientists said that they had turned paper coated with a special type of ink into a “paper battery” that could one day be used as a lightweight, high-

performance alternative to current batteries. The paper battery could be used for powering electric cars and portable electronics, such as laptops and phones, they said. In the eEdition find an example of another technological advance. Write a few paragraphs explaining what it is and what use it has. Come up with at least one other way it could be used. For example, could it be paired with a different device? Used by a different type of manufacturer?

Learning Standards: Generating scientific questions about the world based on observation; showing how common themes of science, mathematics and technology apply in real world contexts.

A Teaching Tool
For Tomorrow