

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1

## Car-Making News

Everyone knows the last year has not been good for America's car-making companies. But things may be looking a little better for General Motors factory workers. The company said last week it may reopen some factories that it closed because it can't produce its more popular vehicles fast enough. Factories that make the Chevrolet Equinox, GMC Terrain, Cadillac SRX and Buick LaCrosse are having trouble keeping up with orders, and if they can't produce more, GM may reopen other facilities to help out. That would be a good sign for the car company, which closed 14 factories last year. As a class, look for stories in the eEdition about businesses or jobs. Pick one and write a paragraph describing what is making news and whom the news affects.

Learning Standards: Describing and demonstrating how the economic forces of scarcity and choice shape consumer decisions regarding the purchase, use and disposal of goods and services; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

2

## One Big Spider

Spiders live all over the world and in all kinds of places. But many people wouldn't expect to find spiders in the hot sands of a desert. But in the Middle East country of Israel, scientists have found a spider that does just that – and it is a big spider at that! The newly discovered spider can measure half a foot across when its legs are spread out. To protect itself, it only comes out at night and builds underground dens with front doors made from sand glued together. But it may need even more protection soon: The sand dunes where it lives in southern Israel are threatened by mining projects in the area. With a partner, find a story or photo of an interesting animal in the eEdition. Write a list of adjectives you would use to describe it, if you were seeing it for the first time.

Learning Standards: showing how science concepts can be interpreted through creative expression such as language arts and fine arts; selecting and using appropriate language conventions when reading or editing text.

3

## Cut the Salt

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is a big backer of healthy living. To help people, he wants restaurants and food companies to limit the amount of salt they put into prepared foods. Too much salt can contribute to high blood pressure and heart disease, and health experts say 80 percent of the salt in Americans' diets comes from packaged or restaurant food. As a class, talk about foods that are the healthiest to eat and which should be eaten only in limited amounts. Then find examples of healthy foods in the eEdition. Design a poster for healthy eating from what you find.

Learning Standards: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; comprehending what constitutes good health and nutrition; responding to a variety of texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others.

4

## Search for the News!

Every day, your eEdition allows you to find stories that interest you. Your eEdition also allows you to search recent editions of the newspaper for related stories. With a partner, go to a news section of the eEdition or the sports section and scan the pages for a story that interests you. Read the story and write a short paragraph explaining the news and why it interests you. Then use the Advanced Search feature in the toolbar at the top of the page to find stories on the same subject or team. Find the stories electronically and read them. Talk about the benefits of search tools.

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

5

## Who Built the Pyramids?

The Great Pyramids of Egypt are among the most amazing things ever built by humans. But for years, history experts believed that they were built by slaves forced to do the work by the powerful pharaoh kings. Now a discovery of workers' burial tombs suggests that the pyramid

builders were free workers, according to Egypt's top pyramid expert. The tombs, which were found west of the city of Cairo, show that workers were buried inside the pyramid of a king – something that would not have occurred if they were slaves, said pyramid expert Zahi Hawass. As a class, talk about the ways scientists learn about the past. Then find a photo of an outdoor scene in the eEdition. What questions would you ask about the scene if you discovered it as a scientist in the future?

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; posing social science questions; comprehending the past.

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