

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Wind Power

Wind power is considered a “renewable” source of energy, because there is always more wind. Now the U.S. Energy Department says wind power could produce 20 percent of the electricity needed by houses and businesses in the eastern half of the United States by the year 2024. In a new report the Energy Department said there is enough wind to achieve that goal, but it would cost \$90 billion to build wind towers on land and sea and install about 22,000 miles of new high-tech power lines. As a class, talk about renewable sources of energy like wind, solar and water power. Then draw a comic strip for the eEdition showing wind power at work. Dream up some unusual sources of wind power!

Learning Standards: Evaluating alternative long range plans for resource use and byproduct disposal in terms of environmental and economic impact; explaining how energy is distributed to living things in an ecosystem; using the craft of the illustrator to express ideas artistically.

2 Mars Photos

The planet Mars is next out from the Earth in our solar system and has long interested scientists. Rovers and other landing craft have been sent to collect information on the surface of the so-called Red Planet, and satellites are orbiting Mars taking pictures. Now America’s NASA space agency wants Americans to help choose spots the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter satellite should take pictures of with its HiRISE camera. Last week, NASA announced the public can suggest locations from a map on the Internet Web site <http://uahirise.org/suggest/>. As a class, talk about reasons scientists study space and other planets. Then find a story about a space mission in the eEdition or online. Write a summary of what the mission hopes to achieve.

Learning Standards: Explaining how we learn about the universe; explaining how scientists decide what constitutes scientific knowledge; engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance.

3 Monkey Math

Monkeys can do math! That’s what scientists from the European country of Germany have found using tests developed for rhesus monkeys. The tests showed that the monkeys could understand ideas like “less than” and “greater than” and answer math problems correctly 83 to 92 percent of the time. As a class, talk about the skills animals have and how they use those skills. With a partner or alone, find an animal that interests you in the eEdition. Do a little research online or in the library and make a list of skills the animal has. Then write how the animal uses its skills.

Learning Standards: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; investigating and explaining the characteristics of living things; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

4 eEdition Prefixes

Electronic editions allow you to search their content for stories or topics that interest you. This ability to search also can help you build vocabulary and word skills. You can search, for example, to see how many times a word appears in the paper. Or you can search to see how many times a prefix appears. As a class, review how prefixes are added to the front of words to change their meaning. Then search today’s eEdition to see how often the prefix “un” appears. Remember to leave a space before the “un” when you type it into the search window so that you only get the beginning of words!

Learning Standards: Using technology tools to enhance learning; understanding the operations and functions of technology systems and becoming proficient in the use of technology.

5 Helping Polio Sufferers

President Franklin D. Roosevelt was the only U.S. president to be elected to office four times. He also was the only president to have the crippling disease polio. To help people with polio, President Roosevelt helped found the March of Dimes, an organization that now works to prevent

all kinds of birth defects in babies, not just polio. To remind people of President Roosevelt’s work, his great-granddaughter Liz Roosevelt Johnston visited a Pennsylvania school district last week to promote a new partnership to build awareness of the March of Dimes and its programs. The pilot program in Bristol, Pennsylvania, will involve students from all grade levels and let people know how important it is to improve the health of babies. As a class, talk about health issues important to young children. Then find photos and words in the eEdition that you could use to make a poster promoting the health of babies.

Learning Standard: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; comprehending what constitutes good health and nutrition; responding to texts by making connections to students’ personal lives.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow