

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

1 Speechifying

Last week President Obama gave his State of the Union address, an annual speech in which the President discusses how things are going in the country and outlines plans for the future. Read news articles about Obama's speech. Then write your own speech about the state of your school or your community. Include positive aspects of your school or community, as well as things you'd like to see improved. Outline ideas for how things can be improved.

Learning Standard: Reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively. Examples include speaking publicly, demonstrating teamwork skills, debating formally, performing literature, and interviewing for employment.

2 eEdition Word Search

Electronic editions allow you to search their content for stories or topics that interest you. This ability to search also can help you build research and word skills. You can search, for example, to see how many times a word appears in the paper. As a class talk about the big news in sports this week. Then make a list of players, coaches or topics that are in the news. Search the eEdition for a day or a week to see how many times each name or word appears in stories. Then create a bar graph to show your results.

Learning Standards: Using technology tools to enhance learning; understanding the operations and functions of technology systems; organizing data in charts, graphs and tables.

3 Lesson Plan

February is Black History Month, and kids in classrooms across the country are learning about the contributions African Americans have made – and are making – in America. In groups, use the newspaper for ideas to design a Black History Month lesson for elementary or middle school students. It can focus on a specific person or group, a historical event or anything else. Present your lesson to the rest of the class. Then ask for their feedback.

Learning Standard: Integrating listening, viewing, speaking, reading and writing skills for multiple purposes and in varied contexts.

4 Healthy Heart

February is American Heart Month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. High blood pressure is sometimes called "the silent killer," because it has no symptoms, but can lead to heart disease. Doctors recommend adopting a heart-healthy lifestyle when you're young, before problems start. Find articles about heart disease and what causes it in the eEdition and online. Create a poster or pamphlet designed to convince teens to make heart-healthy choices now.

Learning Standard: Communicating information accurately and effectively and demonstrating expressive abilities by creating oral, written and visual texts that enlighten and engage an audience.

5 Lizards

Last week a German reptile collector was stopped at the Christchurch International Airport in New Zealand with 44 lizards in his pants. Hans Kurt Kubus gathered the geckos and skinks illegally and was attempting to transport them illegally – and possibly to sell them illegally, as well. The lizards

are protected under the Wildlife Act and the Trade in Endangered Species Act in New Zealand. Using the eEdition and online sources, gather information about an animal protected by the United States' Endangered Species Act. Write a short report on how the animal came to be listed as endangered, what its current status is and what predictions are for the animal's future.

Learning Standards: Describing the environmental consequences of major world processes and events; explaining how parts of an ecosystem are related and how they interact; analyzing how humans and the environment interact.

A Teaching Tool
For Tomorrow