

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 No Moon Trips

Ever since Americans last walked on the moon in 1972, the nation's NASA space agency has wanted to send astronauts back to the Earth's only natural satellite. But because the nation is short of money, President Obama is proposing to end plans for new rockets and spacecraft to take astronauts to the moon. Ending the Constellation program for moon missions will allow NASA to work more on long-range planning for flights that would take astronauts to the planet Mars, which is next out from Earth in the solar system. As a class, talk about what humans can learn by exploring space. Then use the eEdition or Internet to read a story about a space mission. Write a short paragraph describing the space mission.

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.

2 A Very Special Children's Museum

Children's museums provide special attractions for students from the early grades through middle and high school. But the New York Historical Society in New York City is taking a new approach. The society has announced that its new DiMenna Children's History Museum not only will be FOR children, it will be ABOUT children as well. The museum will focus on the stories of children – from famous figures like Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, who came to New York as a teenager to attend college, to the boys and girls who helped New York grow by selling newspapers or products on city streets. With a partner, find a story or photo about children or teens in the eEdition. Write a paragraph describing why the child is in the news and share with the class.

Learning Standards: Responding to a variety of texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others; acquiring information from multiple sources.

3 Valentine's Party

Valentine's Day is Sunday, February 14. Pretend you are planning a Valentine's party for this coming weekend. Scan the ads in the eEdition for foods or decorations you would like for your party. Then print out the ads for the items you would like to buy. Compare prices so that you get the most for your money, and write a paragraph explaining what you would buy. Write a second paragraph that describes how the eEdition helped you plan your Valentine's party.

Learning Standard: Understanding the operations and functions of technology systems and becoming proficient in the use of technology; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

4 Incredible Journey

The European country of Poland has been having some bitter cold weather this winter. The weather has caused problems for both people and animals – but none more amazing than an adventure experienced by a Polish dog. The thick-furred dog got caught on a moving piece of ice in Poland's Vistula River and floated more than 75 miles before being rescued 15 miles out in the Baltic Sea! Talk as a class, about some of the amazing things animals can do or be trained to do. Then find an animal in the Edition. Write a paragraph about things the animal can do.

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.

5 Help for Great Lakes

The Great Lakes are hugely important to Michigan and surrounding states. They provide a way to move materials from place to place, give people places to enjoy the outdoors and provide habitats for animals, birds and fish. Keeping the Great Lakes healthy is a goal of both the state and

Learning Standards: Explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; describing positive and negative effects of humans on nature and wildlife; reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, viewing critically and representing creatively.

national governments. Now President Obama has proposed spending \$300 million to reduce pollution and restore the environment of the Great Lakes. The money is included the spending blueprint for the next year that was announced by the President last week. If approved by the U.S. Congress, it would pay to battle non-native, invasive species like Asian carp, improve wildlife habitats and reduce pollution from fertilizers used on farms. Talk about ways people can help or harm the environment and find examples in the eEdition. Draw a comic strip showing people helping or harming the environment.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow