

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 Language

Millions of people rely on Google's translation tool to translate Web pages on the Internet. Google Translate can handle 52 languages, and Google is working on adding others. A spokesperson for Google recently said that the company also wants to combine its translation tool with image analysis, so a user could give Google a photo of, for example, a Spanish text, and have it automatically translated into English. Find an article in the eEdition about another new way technology is being used to help people in their jobs or lives. Write a paragraph describing what the technology allows people to do, why that is helpful and what might be the next advance of this technology.

Learning Standards: Showing how common themes of science, mathematics and technology apply in real world contexts; using reading for multiple purposes, such as enjoyment or clarifying information; using a variety of resources, including technology, to explore and create texts.

2 Africa

Wild elephants ran through a village in the African country of Angola earlier this month, trampling farms and houses and causing residents to flee. The elephants came from Botswana, a neighboring country. Most of Angola's own wildlife was wiped out during a violent 27-year civil war. Using the eEdition and online sources, gather information about an endangered species in Africa. Pretend you're a member of an environmental or conservation organization, like the World Wildlife Fund, and create a pamphlet designed to raise money to help save or help the animal.

Learning Standards: Explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; implementing strategies to regulate effects of variables of the communication process; selecting a format for a message to influence the receiver's response; representing creatively.

3 Jobs

There are more job openings this year than last, according to a new report from the U.S. Department of Labor. The number of job openings in January rose about 7.6 percent compared with December. That's a good sign for the economy. Pick a job mentioned in the eEdition. Make a list of qualifications someone would need to be successful at that job, including skills and personality traits. Write a paragraph explaining whether or not you'd be a good fit for that job.

Learning Standards: Responding to a variety of oral, visual, written and electronic texts by making connections to their personal lives and the lives of others; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

4 Springtime

The spring season officially starts on Saturday, March 20. But will it feel spring-like? Check out this week's eEdition to see what the weather will be like where you live. Then use ads in the eEdition to put together a clothing outfit that will be appropriate for the weather. Add up what it would cost to buy the outfit you created.

Learning Standard: Investigating and describing what makes up weather and how it changes from day to day; analyzing the relationships between human activities and the atmosphere; using economic reasoning when comparing price, quality and features of goods.

5 Print, e-Mail, Download

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"Download." Find a story that interests you in your eEdition today. Use the "Print" icon to print out a copy in graphic or text form. Use the "e-Mail" icon to e-mail the story to yourself or your teacher. Use the "Download" icon to download a copy of the file to your computer. Finish by writing a paragraph describing how these features of your eEdition make it useful for gathering or communicating information.

Learning Standards: Building on productivity tools to collaborate and interact with peers and other audiences using telecommunications and media; describing uses of technology in daily life.

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