

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Sniffing Out Bugs

Dogs can be trained to do some amazing things. But did you know they can sniff out bedbugs? In many cities bedbugs are a growing problem, getting on clothes, hiding in mattresses and biting people while they sleep. Enter dogs like Cruiser, a trained New York City dog that is earning fame as a bedbug detective. Cruiser and other dogs are trained to recognize the smell of bedbugs, their eggs or the nests they have hidden in walls or mattresses. Well-trained dogs can detect a single live bug or egg 96 percent of the time. Talk about things trained animals can do. Then find a story or photo of an animal in the eEdition. Think of things this animal could be trained to do and draw a comic strip of this animal doing one of those things.

Learning Standards: Responding to a variety of texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others; reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively.

2 High-Flying WASPs

March is Women's History Month, and this year a celebration in Washington, D.C., made history of its own. On March 10, the nation's first female military pilots received the Congressional Gold Medal at a ceremony in the Capitol Building. The WASPs – officially the Women Airforce Service Pilots – were military flight pioneers during World War II nearly 70 years ago. More than 1,100 of them volunteered to fly non-combat missions during the war so that as many male pilots as possible would be available for combat. As a class, talk about the achievements women have made in different fields and how women were blocked from some jobs in the past. Read a story about a successful woman in the eEdition. Then write a letter to her talking about how her success can inspire others.

Learning Standards: Identifying and explaining how individuals demonstrate good character and personal virtue; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

3 Getting Windy

The governors of 29 states want the U.S. Congress to take steps to push wind power as a way to meet the nation's energy needs. In a report to Congress, the governors say the U.S. government should require electric companies to produce at least 10 percent of their power with wind, develop wind energy in coastal areas and build new power lines to distribute electricity from wind "farms." As a class, talk about reasons wind power is now getting attention from governors and other leaders. Then write a short eEdition editorial urging the U.S. Congress to support more wind power – or not.

Learning Standards: Showing how common themes of science, mathematics and technology apply in real world contexts; applying knowledge, ideas and issues drawn from texts to students' lives and the lives of others; asking questions that help students learn about the world.

4 Search & Learn More

An eEdition offers many features that let you find information. And once you find something that interests you, eEditions let you learn more with search features. With the toolbars or Index, find the entertainment or sports section in today's eEdition. Click on a photo that interests you to enlarge it. Study it to see who is in it and what is going on. Then use the Search or Advanced Search feature of the eEdition to see what stories have appeared in the eEdition about this person or subject. Write a paragraph summarizing the news in stories that have appeared.

Learning Standards: Locating information from electronic resources; describing the impact of technology use on individuals at home, at school and in the workplace.

5 State of the Birds

All over the world scientists are worrying how global warming could affect wildlife. And many scientists are especially worried about birds. In the United States warming could have "an increasingly disruptive effect" on all kinds of birds, according to a first-of-its-kind wildlife report from the U.S.

Learning Standards: Explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; describing positive and negative effects of humans on wildlife and the environment; engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance.

Fish and Wildlife Service and environmental groups. Warming would affect birds living in all habitats, according to the "2010 State of the Birds Report," but it could affect ocean and coastal birds most. Birds that nest on islands or low coastal areas could lose their nesting grounds if ocean waters rise, and threatened or endangered species like whooping cranes could face greater challenges for survival, the report said. As a class, talk about ways changes in habitats affect wildlife. Then find a wild animal or bird in the eEdition. Write out what kind of habitat the animal or bird needs and what changes could affect it.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow