

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 Self-Portrait

Artist Vincent van Gogh was born on March 30, 1853. He painted in the Impressionist style and used vibrant colors. Some of his most famous paintings are the ones he painted of himself – his “self-portraits.” Make your own self-portrait, but instead of paint, use words. Cut out words and phrases that describe who you are, where you come from, what you like to do and what you want to be in the future from articles, captions, headlines and ads in the eEdition. Then use the words to create an art collage that will offer a “portrait” of yourself to others.

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 Moon Water

Until last year, scientists weren't entirely sure there was water on the moon. But new information discovered by radar instruments proved them wrong. Now scientists are saying there are at least three different types of moon water, each with different minerals and gases. In groups, find an article about a scientific discovery or event. Do research in books, newspapers, the Edition and online to find out more about it. Then use what you learned to create a presentation for the class.

Learning Standards: Asking questions that help students learn about the world; designing and conducting investigations using appropriate methodology and technology; learning from books and other sources of information; reconstructing previously learned knowledge.

3 Long Ago

A book checked out on September 24, 1965, was just returned to a library in England. The borrower returned the book anonymously, but the librarian said there was no need to hide his or her identity: late fees are capped at \$9. Pick an article in the eEdition about a common topic, such as politics or sports. Then research online or in books and write down three things on the same topic that happened 45 or 50 years ago. Share what you found with the class, and discuss what impact the things you found have on current events.

Learning Standards: Performing the daily functions of a literate individual; acquiring information from multiple sources; organizing and evaluating the information; communicating the information in various contexts.

4 Poetry Month

In honor of the start of National Poetry Month, which falls every April, pick a headline in the eEdition that catches your eye. Read the headline and the story that accompanies it. Then write a poem based on the headline and story. Use the headline as the title of your poem, or the first line, or both. Share your poem with the class.

Learning Standards: Demonstrating a variety of strategies for planning, drafting, revising and editing several different forms of texts for specific purposes. Examples include persuading a particular audience to take action and capturing feelings through poetry.

5 Section Fronts

Your eEdition allows you to quickly move from section to section to see what the top stories are. In the toolbar at the top or side of the page, pulldown menus allow you to look at the front page of each section to see what stories interest you. With a partner, find the pulldown menu that lets you move

through the eEdition section by section. Look at the front page of three sections and write down the story in each section that is given the biggest display. Write a sentence for each, explaining why it was displayed the way it was. Finish by writing a short paragraph explaining how having the ability to look quickly at section fronts helps readers find what they want to read.

Learning Standards: Using appropriate technology resources to access information and communicate electronically; describing uses of technology in daily life.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow