

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Sun-Powered Plane

Airplanes are expensive to fly because of the high cost of fuel. A new airplane has been developed that can fly without any fuel at all, at least not the kind used by other planes. Last week, a plane that gets its power from sunlight made a successful first flight in the European country of Switzerland. The plane, named the Solar Impulse, took off from a military airport and flew for 90 minutes. A night flight is planned before July. A second plane will be built to try a round-the-world flight in 2012. As a class, talk about new inventions and products that have changed the way people live or do things. Find an example in the ads and stories of the eEdition. Write a paragraph describing how this product has changed the way people live.

Learning Standard: 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.

2 Goodbye, Justice Stevens

The U.S. Supreme Court is the most powerful court in the nation. It has nine judges – or “justices” – and once they are appointed, they can serve as long as they want. Justice John Paul Stevens, who is the longest serving justice on the Supreme Court, will retire in June. Justice Stevens, who is 90, has served on the Supreme Court for 34 years and has been at the center of many key decisions. Under the U.S. Constitution, President Obama will choose someone to nominate as a replacement, and the appointment must be approved by the U.S. Senate. As a class, talk about the role courts have in solving disputes or determining if people have broken the law. Then write a letter to the editor of the eEdition describing the qualities you think a Supreme Court justice should have.

Learning Standards: Explaining the meaning and origin of the ideas, including the core democratic values expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and other foundational documents of the United States; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

3 Vanishing Glaciers

Government scientists announced recently that two glaciers at Glacier National Park in the U.S. state of Montana have shrunk so much due to higher temperatures that they no longer qualify to be glaciers. Now, there are only 25 glaciers in the park, and all glaciers could be gone by the year 2020, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Scientists said rising temperatures caused by global warming speeded up the melting of the glaciers' ice. As a class, talk about how higher temperatures could affect nature in your area. Then draw a comic strip showing one of these effects.

Learning Standards: Explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; describing positive and negative effects of humans on wildlife and the environment; showing how science concepts can be interpreted through creative expression such as language arts and fine arts.

4 Search for the News!

Every day, your eEdition allows you to find stories that interest you. You can also search recent editions of the eEdition for related stories. This week, the nation celebrates the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. How is your community celebrating? Scan the pages of the eEdition to find stories about Earth Day. Read one story. Then use the Advanced Search feature in the toolbar at the top of the page to find other stories about Earth Day. Compare them to the one you read. Discuss how having the ability to search for stories can help readers better understand the news.

Learning Standards: Defining subject searching and devising a search strategy to locate information using available electronic research resources; demonstrating knowledge of changes in technologies and the effect those changes have.

5 Boy Meets Boy

Scientists who study fossils make some incredible discoveries. But few have been as incredible as the one made in the African nation of South Africa. A 9-year-old boy chasing his dog through high grass stumbled on the fossil of a human relative that is nearly 2 million years old! Even more amazing,

the fossil is of a boy almost the same age as Matthew Berger, the modern boy who found it. Scientists say the fossil is of a new species of hominid, an ancient human ancestor. It shares qualities of both humans and apes: It walked upright on long legs but still climbed through trees with apelike arms. Scientists named the fossil “Sediba,” which means “source.” As a class, talk about ways scientists study fossils of ancient life on Earth. Then find a picture of an outdoor scene in the eEdition. Pretend you are a scientist who believes a fossil is buried on the site. Make a list of the first five steps you would take to find and study this fossil. Give a reason for each step.

Learning Standards: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; explaining how fossils provide evidence about the nature of ancient life; explaining how scientists decide what constitutes scientific knowledge.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow