

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

1 Tweet

Twitter announced last week that it is introducing advertising to the site. Companies will now be able to pay to have their messages – called “tweets” – show up first in searches. Twitter is the Web site where you can post 140-character messages about where you are, what you’re doing, what you’re thinking or anything else. In groups, pick five news articles and turn each one into a 140-character tweet (count spaces between words as characters). Try to include the most important facts and information while staying within the character limit. Share your tweets with the class.

Learning Standard: Employing the most effective strategies to construct meaning while reading, listening to, viewing, or creating texts.

2 Designer

A high school junior in Garner, Iowa, will be wearing a one-of-a-kind dress to her prom. Elizabeth Rasmuson made a dress out of gum wrappers, and even fashioned a matching vest for her date to wear. Rasmuson said that she’s been collecting gum wrappers since last summer for the project. Using the eEdition for ideas, come up with a creative product or item. Draw a sketch or diagram of it. Show it to the class and explain what it is and what in the eEdition inspired you to create it.

Learning Standard: Reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively.

3 Funny People

In 1976, Larry Wilde, author and director of the Carmel Institute of Humor, designated April as National Humor Month. Wilde advocated using humor and laughter to relieve unhappiness or stress. Relieve a little stress of your own by creating a humorous editorial cartoon that comments on something important to you in the news. Share cartoons and discuss as a class.

Learning Standard: Communicating information accurately and effectively and demonstrating their expressive abilities by creating oral, written, and visual texts that enlighten and engage an audience.

4 To Be or Not To Be

William Shakespeare was born on April 23, 1564. His plays, such as “Romeo and Juliet” and “Hamlet,” proved so enduring that they are still read and taught today and have even been made into modern movies. Shakespeare didn’t come up with all the ideas for his plays on his own. Many of his famous works were based on real events. In teams or pairs, pick an article in the eEdition and write a short play based on the people, events or location in the article. Or just write the opening scene.

Learning Standard: Evaluating the power of using multiple voices in oral and written communication to persuade, inform, entertain and inspire audiences.

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