

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 Pull-Down Menus

The toolbar at the top or side of your eEdition allows you to move through the eEdition with pull-down menus. Pull-down menus may allow you to pick specific pages to visit by number. They may allow you to pick specific sections of the eEdition. They may allow you to visit eEditions from different dates. Or they may allow you to visit different editions that focus on different areas of your region. Try each type of pull-down menu. Write a complete sentence for each summarizing its advantages. As a class, finish by discussing what you like most, or least, about each method.

Learning Standards/Skills: Using technology tools to enhance learning and increase productivity and creativity; discussing the positive and negative impact of technologies, such as computers, on daily life.

2 Garden For Children

Educator Friedrich Froebel was born April 21, 1782. Froebel, a German, is credited with setting up the first kindergarten. Many of his theories of how kids learn and grow are still fundamental to kindergarten programs today. In groups, pick a news article from the eEdition and come up with a creative way to teach the information in the article to young children. Teach your lesson to the class and ask for feedback: Did your group present the information in a way little kids could understand?

Learning Standard: Focusing on meaning and communication while listening, speaking, viewing, reading and writing in personal, social, occupational and civic contexts.

3 Earth Day

April 22 is Earth Day, a day that reminds us to pay attention to how we treat our planet. But since it's only one day, it's up to us to remind ourselves the rest of the year. Read about activities and events people are organizing for Earth Day in the eEdition and online. In groups, create a poster showing five things kids your age can do to help the environment. Hang your posters up to remind everyone to take care of the Earth even after Earth Day is over.

Learning Standards: Explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; describing positive and negative effects of humans on wildlife and the environment; representing creatively.

4 Speed Limit

A driving instructor in France was driving – with students in the car – when he was stopped for speeding. He taught the students a good lesson about the consequences of speeding: His license was suspended for four months. Look up the definition of “irony.” Find an example in the eEdition this week of something you think is ironic. Share what you found with the class.

Learning Standard: Employing multiple strategies to construct meaning, such as generating questions, studying vocabulary, analyzing mood and tone, recognizing how authors use information, generalizing ideas, matching form to content and developing reference skills.

5 Helen Keller

A new exhibit that is about to open at the New York City headquarters of the American Foundation for the Blind will tell visitors all about the life and accomplishments of Helen Keller. Keller lost her vision and hearing when she was a baby, but she still learned how to speak and

write. She frequently wrote to politicians to request better programs and technologies for disabled people and was instrumental in changing the way disabled people are treated. She even received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her work. Look through the eEdition and pick an issue or a problem you'd like to see addressed. Write a letter to your mayor or U.S. congressperson asking him or her to do something about it.

Learning Standard: Composing essays expressing decisions on national and international policy issues; responding to a variety of written, visual and electronic texts.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow