

SUMMER NEWS {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Thoughts For a Penny

On August 2, 1909, the first Lincoln penny was issued by the United States. The penny honored the nation's 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, in the year marking the 100th anniversary of his birth. Before the Lincoln penny, the nation's one-cent coin had featured the head of an American Indian in full, feathered head-dress. Many people today think the nation should stop using the penny, because very few things cost as little as one cent and pennies are hard to carry around. What do you think? How often do you or your family use pennies? Write a short letter to the editor of the eEdition, talking about whether the United States should stop using pennies.

Learning Standards: Responding to a variety of visual, written and electronic texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

2 The View From Above

All over the world, scientists are worried about ways global warming is changing the Earth. Now a Canadian astronaut on the International Space Station is offering a new point of view. Bob Thirsk, who is spending six months on the station, says that Earth's ice caps appear to have melted and shrunk in size since he was last in orbit 12 years ago. "That saddens me," Thirsk said in an interview from space. With family or friends, talk about how life in your area would be different if the Earth got significantly warmer. Then find a photo of an outdoor scene in the eEdition. Write out five ways that the scene could change if temperatures in your area went up a lot.

Learning Standards: Explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; describing positive and negative effects of humans on nature and wildlife; acquiring information from multiple sources.

3 Teacher's Friend

On August 8, 1876, inventor Thomas Edison became a future friend to teachers across America. On that day, he registered a legal patent for his invention of the mimeograph machine. The mimeograph allowed people to easily make copies of a single document without writing or typing it out over and over again. This made it easier for teachers to produce homework sheets for students before there were photocopy machines or computers. With a friend, find a new product or invention in the ads and stories of the eEdition. Write a paragraph describing how this product is changing the way people to do things.

Learning Standards: Showing how common themes of science, mathematics and technology apply in real world-contexts; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

4 Search by Date

Your eEdition allows you to find information in a variety of ways. One feature lets you look at entire editions of the eEdition from different days. This can be done by using the toolbar option that allows you to view eEditions by date. Find that option on the home page of your eEdition. With your family, scan the front page of the eEdition for every day over the last week. List what the top stories were on each day. Were stories on the same subject front-page news on different days? Write a paragraph on the top story for the week and why that story got front-page coverage.

Learning Standards: Understanding the operations and functions of technology systems and becoming proficient in the use of technology; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

5 Crash on Jupiter

Jupiter is the biggest planet in the Earth's solar system, which makes it a pretty big target. This summer, something hit Jupiter, leaving a big scar on the surface near its south pole. The collision, probably with a comet or an asteroid, was first discovered last month by an amateur space-watcher

from Australia. Now America's Hubble Space Telescope has confirmed the crash by taking photos of the material kicked up into Jupiter's atmosphere by the collision. With family or friends, follow news about events or missions in space in the eEdition. Start by using the search functions of the eEdition to search for the word "space." Pick one that interests you and design a poster to show its most important points. Make your poster colorful and eye-catching to interest viewers.

Learning Standards: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; showing how science concepts can be interpreted through creative expression such as language arts and fine arts.

A Teaching Tool
For Tomorrow

SUMMER news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 A Trumpet Great

Louis Armstrong was one of America's great trumpeters and jazz musicians. He was born on August 4, 1901, in New Orleans, Louisiana, and learned to play in the middle of the great New Orleans music scene. His early playing was noted for improvisation, and as a soloist he had a major influence on the development of jazz in the 1920s. Louis Armstrong learned music because he was surrounded by great music in New Orleans. What skills could you learn from the talented people in your city? Find a story or photo in the eEdition involving someone with skills you would like to have. Write a letter to the person, asking for advice on how you could gain those skills.

Learning Standards: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; locating and describing the cultures of communities; appreciating the diversity of cultures; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

2 Matthew Henson

Matthew Henson was one of the most remarkable explorers in American history. The African American adventurer was born in Charles County, Maryland, on August 8, 1866, but won worldwide fame for exploring the arctic region around the Earth's North Pole. In 1909, Henson was part of the expedition led by Robert Peary that was the first to reach the North Pole. To celebrate Henson's birthday, find a story or photo in the eEdition involving a place you would like to explore. Write a paragraph explaining why you would like to explore this place and design a travel poster to showcase it.

Learning Standards: Understanding how people of diverse cultures have contributed to developments in science; responding to a variety of written and electronic texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others; writing fluently.

3 Happy Birthday, NBA

If you are a basketball fan, August 3, 1949, is a date you should remember. On that day, the modern National Basketball Association was formed. In its first years, the NBA had trouble filling arenas, but today it is one of the most successful pro sports leagues in the world. With a friend, talk about why the NBA is so popular today. Then use the search functions of the eEdition to find stories about the NBA this week, or find some online. Write a paragraph describing the story you think should be the most interesting or important for a basketball fan today.

Learning Standards: Acquiring information from multiple sources and then evaluating, organizing and communicating it in various contexts; developing and applying critical standards for individual use.

4 Put it in Order

There are many ways to tell a story. One technique is to report it in the order it happened. This is called chronological order. Newspaper reporters for eEditions sometimes do this. But often they tell the most important thing first, and then tell the order. Find a story in today's eEdition that interests you or has action. Read the story all the way to the end. After you have finished, read it a second time noting the key points of action. On a sheet of paper, list the actions in the order you think they happened.

Learning Standards: Summarizing the sequence of key events in stories; describing life from the past in the local community, the state and other parts of the United States.

5 Some Gun

People collect the strangest things. And sometimes they pay enormous amounts of money for them. Last month, a private collector paid \$95,600 for a small pistol from the 1930s. The reason he wanted it was that it once belonged to the gangster John Dillinger, and he paid more than

twice what people said the pistol was worth. The .41 caliber Double Derringer was hidden in Dillinger's sock when he was arrested in Arizona in 1934. With friends, look through the eEdition for items you would like to collect. Pick three and write why you would like to own them. Do celebrity connections increase your interest?

Learning Standards: Acquiring information from multiple sources; responding to a variety of visual, written and electronic texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

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SUMMER news {BYTES}

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grades 9-12

1 China on the Rise

The Asian nation of China has more people than any other country on Earth. And it is a growing economic power, making products sold all over the world. Last week President Obama held high level talks with Chinese leaders to lay the groundwork for a better relationship between China and the United States. "The relationship between the United States and China will shape the 21st century, Obama said. Use the search functions of the eEdition to find stories about China and the United States. Do an advanced search for the words "China" and "United States," or devise a search of your own to focus on one aspect of the countries' relationship. Use what you find to design a poster showcasing one way China and the United States will interact in the world in the years ahead.

Learning Standards: Reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively; summarizing the sequence of events in stories.

2 Math Pays – And How

If you want to get a good paying job when you're an adult, hit the math books now. And hit them hard. A study just released shows that all 15 of the college degrees that pay the most this year involve math. The study by the national Association of Colleges and Employers keeps track of the job offers college graduates get each year. Engineering degrees accounted for 12 of the 15 best paying majors, and petroleum engineering paid best of all, with an average starting salary of \$83,121. Look at the Help Wanted ads in today's eEdition. Scan the ads to see which require math or technology skills. Then write a Help Wanted ad for a job that requires math ability.

Learning Standards: Showing how common themes of science, mathematics and technology apply in real world-contexts; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

3 Goodbye, Mr. Nixon

On August 8, 1974, something happened that had not occurred before in American history. And it has not happened since. On that date President Richard Nixon announced he would resign from office the following day as a result of the Watergate scandal. No president had ever resigned before. With family and friends, discuss what was involved with Watergate and why Nixon felt he had to resign. Then do some research about Watergate and draw a political cartoon or comic strip expressing an opinion about it.

Learning Standards: Comprehending the past; explaining how a particular public issue became a problem and why people disagreed about it; using the craft of the illustrator to convey ideas artistically.

4 Music is Everywhere

In summertime, it's hard to go anywhere outside without hearing people playing music. Music helps people express emotions and state opinions on things. Popular music, rock or rap often draw ideas from the news. Look through the eEdition today for a story that might make a good subject for a rap or rock song. Write a few lines that might be the start of your rap or song, or the chorus that would be repeated. With friends, compare song ideas you could get from the news.

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

5 Home Sales

When people study the nation's economy, one of the things they look at closely is housing. Home construction and housing sales indicate whether the economy is healthy or unhealthy. For months, housing sales and construction have been struggling, but there was some good news for the

month of June. Statistics just released indicate that new home sales increased 11 percent in June, and experts expressed hope that the growth would continue for the rest of the summer. Find a story in the eEdition about housing construction or home sales in your area. Write a summary of the article, discussing what is most important for your region.

Learning Standards: Describing major kinds of economic activity and concepts of supply and demand; demonstrating how the economic forces of scarcity and choice shape consumer decisions regarding the purchase, use and disposal of goods and services.

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