

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

## 1 Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 to October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month. Hispanics are now the largest and fastest growing minority group in the United States, and Hispanics make news in every field. Issues important to Hispanics also are widely discussed in local, state and national governments. Use the search and advanced search features of the eEdition this week to see how Hispanics and issues important to Hispanics are making news. Search over several days for the words “Hispanic” or “Latino” to start. Then expand your search to cover individuals or issues making news in ways important to the Hispanic community. Finish by writing a paragraph summarizing your findings.

Learning Standard: Acquiring information from multiple sources and then evaluating, organizing, and communicating it in various contexts; locating and describing the diverse places, cultures and communities of world regions.

## 2 Chickens

Animal rights group PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) sent a letter to Virginia Governor Tim Kaine last week asking to rent a former prison. PETA wants to turn the prison into a chicken museum that would show visitors how chickens are mistreated when they are raised for food. Using the eEdition for ideas, come up with an interesting, fun or wacky idea for a museum exhibit. Write a detailed plan outlining your exhibit, including what the theme is, what you'd include and why. Draw a picture of one of the items you'd display and explain why it would be included.

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

## 3 Electric

A power outage has left a town in southern Africa in the dark – for two months! Officials said last week that the outage was caused by a generator that's not working right. What would happen if you didn't have electricity for two months? Or even for two weeks? Look in the eEdition and make a list of all the products and processes mentioned that rely on electricity. As a class, discuss how your day-to-day life would be different without electricity.

Learning Standards: Responding to a variety of oral, visual, written and electronic texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others; engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance.

## 4 Swine Flu

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which is the government agency that says what food is safe to eat and what medicine is safe to take, approved a new swine flu vaccine last week. Use information from books or online sources to write a paragraph explaining how a vaccine works. Then follow reports of swine flu, also called the H1N1 flu, in the eEdition this week and next and write a list of where it's been reported and who's been affected.

Learning Standards: Reading and comprehending general and technical material; asking questions that help students learn about the world; reconstructing previously learned knowledge; constructing new scientific knowledge.

## 5 Civil Rights

In 1954 the U.S. Supreme Court decided that having segregated schools that only white or only black students could attend violated the protections of the U.S. Constitution. But it took time in some states to enforce that ruling. In early September 1957, the governor of Arkansas

ordered his state troops to prevent nine African American students from going to an all-white high school in the Arkansas city of Little Rock. In response, the President of the United States sent more than 1,000 U.S. troops to take the students into the school on September 25. The students became known as the Little Rock Nine, and the day became an important milestone in the fight for civil rights. Using the eEdition and online news sources, find another example of young people (or a young person) making news. Write a summary of who they are, what they're doing and why it is important.

Learning Standards: Gathering and analyzing information using appropriate information technologies to answer a question posed; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

A Teaching Tool  
for Tomorrow