

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Vegetarian Spider

In the world of nature, most spiders are predators. They survive by hunting insects or tiny animals and trapping them in their beautiful webs. So scientists in Central America were especially excited recently, when they discovered that one species of spider seems to prefer plants to prey. The newly studied vegetarian spider called *B. kiplingi* prefers the tips of leaves on acacia shrubs for meals in areas where it lives in Costa Rica and Mexico, the scientists said. Wildlife makes news in many ways. In the eEdition, find a story or photo that involves wildlife. Read it as a class. Then write a complete sentence telling what you find most important or interesting in the story or photo.

Learning Standards: Describing positive and negative effects of humans on nature and wildlife; explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

2 Boom on the Moon

Scientists have wondered for years if the Earth's moon could have water hidden somewhere under its surface. This month, America's NASA space agency took a new approach after years of searching with probes and satellites. A NASA spacecraft fired a two-ton rocket into a crater near the moon's South Pole to blast a hole in the surface of an area scientists think could once have had water. The rocket from the LCROSS spacecraft dug out a crater that could be 60 feet wide and 13 feet deep, scientists said. Then the LCROSS created a smaller crater by crashing itself onto the surface. Water is important in space, because it is needed for life to exist. In teams, search the eEdition for stories about exploring space. Then draw a comic strip for the eEdition showing a space mission you would like to be part of.

Learning Standards: Explaining how we learn about the universe; using the craft of the illustrator to convey ideas artistically.

3 Caw, Caw, Caw

Scientists who study wildlife worry that many of the Earth's endangered birds and animals could die off and become extinct. But in the Southeast Asian nation of Indonesia, wildlife watchers have gotten some good news. An Indonesian crow long feared to be extinct has been re-discovered in its native habitat in the island nation 100 years after it was last seen. Talk as a class about reasons birds and animals become endangered or extinct. Then find a story or photo in the eEdition that involves an endangered species. Write a letter to the editor talking about challenges this species faces.

Learning Standards: Acquiring information from multiple sources; showing how science concepts can be interpreted through creative expression such as language arts and fine arts.

4 Halloween Search

Halloween will be here in less than two weeks, and people all over the country are getting ready to have fun. Halloween is a very popular holiday in the United States, and it gets lots of news coverage. To see how Halloween is making news, use the Search Features of the eEdition. Search for the word "Halloween." Make a list of the kinds of stories you find. Write a sentence that describes the kind of story you found most often. Then write a second sentence telling how the Search Features of the eEdition help readers find information they need or want.

Learning Standards: Using prescribed technology tools for data collection and analysis; describing uses of technology in daily life.

5 Day Care Weight Watch

All over the country, health experts worry that Americans weigh too much. And there is special worry about kids. Twice as many children 6-19 are overweight today than were overweight 20 years ago, and extra weight can cause health problems later in life. To help keep kids' weight down, schools

are changing the foods and snacks they serve, and now day care centers are looking to do the same. Day care centers are replacing sweet snacks with fresh fruit and fruit juices with low-fat milk, the Associated Press news group reports. And they are teaching that favorite foods like chicken nuggets should be treats not regular meals. As a class, talk about things that are important to help kids stay healthy. Then use pictures and words from the eEdition to design a poster or art collage with a healthy message for kids and their families.

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; comprehending what constitutes good health and nutrition.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow