

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

## 1 Washington, D.C.

On December 6, 1884, construction was completed on the Washington Monument, a 555-foot-tall column in Washington, D.C., erected in honor of the nation's first president, George Washington. Construction had initially begun many years earlier, but funds ran low and the project had to be set aside. Once finished, it became, and remains, the tallest structure in the nation's capital city. Look through the eEdition for another example of a well-known American structure. It can be a monument, a statue, a building or something else. Do some research and write a summary of its history, including what it symbolizes.

Learning Standards: Acquiring information from multiple sources; understanding narratives about major eras of American and world history by identifying the people involved, describing the setting and sequencing the events; comprehending the past.

## 2 Geography Awareness

The eEdition is a great way to learn about the United States. Divide into groups and test your knowledge about U.S. geography, customs and culture. First, without using any resources, draw a map of the United States. Fill in as many states as you can. Then compare your map to a U.S. map in an atlas, the eEdition or an online source. Which group came closest to the real thing? Next, look through the eEdition and make a list of all the different states you find mentioned today or this week. See which group can find the most states. Report to the class which states were in the news most – and why.

Learning Standards: Demonstrating the ability to draw a sketch map of the world or nation from memory; describing and comparing characteristics of ecosystems, states, regions, countries and major world regions.

## 3 Festival of Lights

This year the Jewish holiday Hanukkah starts at sundown on December 11. To celebrate, many Jews light candles in commemoration of lights that were lit to mark a military victory thousands of years ago. In the eEdition find articles about Hanukkah and other holidays celebrated in different parts of the world. Pick one holiday and write a summary of what it is, who celebrates it and why. Create a piece of art, such as a collage or drawing, to go with your summary.

Learning Standards: Describing, comparing and explaining the locations and characteristics of races, cultures and settlements; identifying and using aspects of the craft of the speaker, writer and illustrator to formulate and express ideas artistically.

## 4 Dewey

Melvil Dewey was born on December 10, 1851. He was a librarian, and he created Dewey Decimal Classification, a system of organizing library books that categorizes all books into 10 groups. Within each group, decimals are used to create smaller subcategories. In groups, come up with a classification system for the articles, photos and cartoons in the eEdition. For example, you might categorize them by subject, by location or anything else. For each category, write a few sentences explaining why the things in it go together.

Learning Standards: Investigating practical situations such as scheduling, routing, sequencing, networking, organizing and classifying; analyzing ideas like recurrence relations, induction, iteration, and algorithm design; acquiring information from multiple sources.

## 5 Search by Date

Your eEdition allows you to access information in a variety of ways. One feature allows you to search previous editions for topics that interest you. Another 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. Then 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 topic front-page news on different days? Write a paragraph summarizing the top story for the week and why that story got front-page coverage. Then write a sentence describing the advantages of having the ability to compare eEditions from different days.

Learning Standard: Understanding the operations and functions of technology systems and becoming proficient in the use of technology.

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