

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

## 1 Ice House

Two artists in Detroit, Michigan, are drawing attention to the city's high number of abandoned homes by encasing one of those homes in ice. Photographer Gregory Holm and architect Matthew Radune have spent weeks spraying the house with water to build up a thick layer of ice as part of Ice House Detroit. They're also blogging about the project. Look through articles in the eEdition or online and find another example of a person or group of people working for or promoting a cause in an unusual way. Write a summary of what they are doing and whether or not you think it's an effective way to create change.

Learning Standards: Composing coherent written essays that express a position on a public issue and justifying the position with reasoned arguments; analyzing responses to oral, visual, written and electronic texts; providing examples of how texts affect students' lives.

## 2 Rain Runoff

A proposed law in Los Angeles, California, would require new houses and developments in the city to collect and re-use "runoff" from rainstorms or build systems to filter it. Storm runoff is rainwater that falls onto the ground but is prevented from soaking into the ground by streets and sidewalks. It's a problem because the water can gather up polluting chemicals and dirt before making its way into a natural body of water like a lake or river. Find a news story about an environmental problem that people are trying to fix. Summarize the article. Then research and write down additional ways people could be addressing the problem.

Learning Standards: Describing, comparing and explaining the locations and characteristics of ecosystems, resources, human adaptation, environmental impact and the interrelationships among them; describing positive and negative effects of humans on nature.

## 3 Your Health

A new report from the International Union Against Cancer says that 40 percent of the 12 million people diagnosed with cancer every year could avoid the disease through vaccinations and lifestyle changes, such as eating more healthily and avoiding sun exposure. In groups, use articles in the eEdition and online to make a chart that suggests healthy choices and behaviors to replace unhealthy ones. Share your ideas with the class. Then hang up your charts as an ongoing reminder to live healthy lives.

Learning Standards: Applying knowledge, ideas and issues drawn from texts to students' lives and the lives of others; organizing data using tables, charts, graphs, spreadsheets and data bases.

## 4 TV News

Television news reporter Ted Koppel's birthday is February 8. He was born in 1940. Koppel became the anchor of the "Nightline" news show in 1980, and over the course of his career he's won every major broadcasting award. In groups, look through the eEdition to see what's going on in the world. Then write a news broadcast for an anchor like Ted Koppel to read on a news show. It should cover the stories your group considers the most important and most interesting. Present it to the class. Did everyone pick the same news stories? Discuss why or why not.

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

## 5 Valentine's Search

Valentine's Day is Sunday, February 14, and this week the eEdition is full of news about how people are getting ready. Use the search functions of the eEdition to see how Valentine's Day is being covered in the news. Search each day for a week for the words "Valentine," "Valentines"

or "Valentine's" or the phrase "Valentine's Day." Log your findings and record how many times each word or phrase is used each day and whether the word or phrase is used in a story, event listing or photo caption. Make a chart to show your findings. Then pick a Valentine's event you would like to attend with a relative, boyfriend or girlfriend to celebrate Valentine's Day – or a restaurant offering a special Valentine's meal. Write a paragraph explaining why you would enjoy the event or meal.

Learning Standards: Using appropriate technology resources to access information and communicate electronically; describing uses of technology in daily life; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

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