

news BYTES

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Thousands of Dino Tracks

The great thing about dinosaurs is that scientists are always discovering new things about them. Now scientists in the Asian nation of China have discovered thousands of new things! Chinese scientists reported this month that they had discovered more than 3,000 fossilized dinosaur footprints in an eastern province of the country, and some of them were huge. Footprints up to 32 inches wide were found among the tracks of six different kinds of dinosaurs. As a class, talk about how fossils teach people about ancient life on Earth. Then find a story in the eEdition about scientists studying life on Earth today. Discuss what scientists have learned and draw a picture to show the results.

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

2 Space Shuttle Milestone

For nearly 33 years, space shuttles have been flying missions for America's NASA space agency. Last week the space shuttle Endeavour took off on a new mission, and made a little history. Endeavour took off for the International Space Station at night in what is likely to be the last night-time launch for the shuttle program. Just four more missions are scheduled for shuttles this year, before NASA ends the program. Endeavour was carrying a new room for the Space Station, which will include an observation deck and exercise equipment for astronauts. As a class, talk about what it would be like to live and work on the International Space Station. Then draw a comic strip for the eEdition showing you doing experiments or work in space.

Learning Standards: Explaining how we learn about the universe; explaining how scientists decide what constitutes scientific knowledge; using the craft of the illustrator to convey ideas artistically.

3 Breakthrough for Women

The Central American nation of Costa Rica has been independent for more than 180 years, but it has never been led by a woman as president. That is about to change after Laura Chinchilla easily won Costa Rica's presidential election last week. "We are making history," said the 50-year-old Chinchilla, who will be the third woman to serve as president of a country in Central America. All over the world, women are achieving new things. As a class or in teams, find an example in the eEdition or online. Write a paragraph describing what one woman has done, and how she has done it.

Learning Standards: Acquiring information from multiple sources; identifying and explaining how individuals in history demonstrate good character and personal virtue; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

4 Use That Index!

The front page Index of your eEdition lets you find information about what is inside the newspaper in an easy way. Click on the Index on Page 1 of today's eEdition. Then go to the tool bar at the top of the page and find the pull-down that offers readers a Visual or Graphic Mode and a Text Mode. With the Index open, try each mode. What do you see with each mode? What are the advantages of each mode? Finish by writing a complete sentence explaining which mode you think you would use the most.

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

5 Black Navy Hero

February is Black History Month, and one of the first African American heroes of World War II is among four U.S. Navy sailors who have been honored with their picture on postage stamps. Doris "Dorie" Miller, a Navy man who served with great bravery during the attack on Pearl Harbor,

was honored with a stamp that was issued this month by the U.S. Postal Service. Miller inspired thousands of Americans for his actions on the battleship West Virginia when the U.S. Navy was attacked by Japanese fighter planes on December 7, 1941. Although he was a dining room mess attendant – the only type of job open to African Americans in the Navy at that time – he helped rescue dozens of shipmates who were wounded or trapped in the wreckage of the ship. With a partner, find an African American in the eEdition who is inspiring people. Write a paragraph explaining why people find this person inspiring.

Learning Standards: Describing, comparing and explaining the locations and characteristics of races, cultures and settlements; identifying and explaining how individuals in history demonstrate good character and personal virtue.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow