

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Post Office Recycling

Every year, the U.S. Postal Service handles millions of pounds of paper, plastic and cardboard mail. And now the Postal Service is getting customers to recycle materials that otherwise would be thrown out. More than 200,000 tons of paper, plastic and other waste were recycled by the Postal Service in 2009, the service announced last week. Much of that material was collected through the Post Office Lobby Recycling program, which provides containers in Post Offices so customers can recycle unwanted mail before leaving the building. As a class, talk about ways recycling reduces waste in landfills. Then find something in the eEdition that could be recycled and design an eEdition ad encouraging people to recycle it.

Learning Standards: Explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; describing positive and negative effects of humans on nature and wildlife; reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively.

2 Adjective Search

The Search and Advanced Search features of the eEdition are a great tool for finding information. They also are a great tool for building vocabulary and word power. Adjectives are colorful words that can make your writing stronger and more effective. Adjectives describe people, objects and ideas. Many adjectives end in the letters "able." Use the search features of the eEdition to find adjectives used to make writing more effective or colorful. Remember to leave a space after the "able" when you search to make sure you find only words in which those letters are at the end of the word. Share words as a class. Then write a paragraph describing how having search functions makes the eEdition an effective tool for learning or gathering information.

Learning Standards: Using technology tools to enhance learning and increase creativity; becoming proficient with the use of technology; describing the impact of technology use on individuals at home, at school and in the workplace.

3 A Senior Playground

All over the world, cities build playgrounds for children. But in the European country of Great Britain, the city of London is building a playground for senior citizens. The playground will feature a stationary bicycle, a cross-trainer, a sit-up bench and other low-stress exercise equipment to help older people improve their fitness. As a class, talk about how important it is for people to get regular exercise. Then use the eEdition to find activities that people could do to get exercise and have fun at the same time. Pick one activity and draw a picture of people having fun doing it.

Learning Standards: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; comprehending what constitutes good health and nutrition; using the craft of the illustrator to convey ideas artistically.

4 White House Concert

February is Black History Month, and all over the nation people are finding different ways to celebrate. At the White House in Washington, D.C., President Obama and his wife Michelle hosted a concert featuring music that was important to the civil rights movement. Musical performers included Jennifer Hudson, Smokey Robinson and Yolanda Adams. With a partner, look for Black History Month celebrations in the eEdition this week. See if you can find one that is unusual or out of the ordinary. Write a paragraph describing why it is a good way to celebrate.

Learning Standards: Describing, comparing and explaining the locations and characteristics of races, cultures and settlements; locating and describing the diverse places, cultures and communities of major world regions.

5 Recess is Important

For many elementary students, recess is one of the most popular activities of the school day. It also could be one of the most important, according to elementary school principals. In an opinion poll taken by the Gallup organization, elementary school principals from across the nation said

recess not only is fun, but can help students do better in the classroom. According to the poll results, four out of five principals said recess has a positive impact on academic achievement, two-thirds report that students listen better and are more focused in class after recess and almost all believe that recess has a positive impact on children's social development, relationships and general well-being. As a class, talk about ways that recess can help students in school. Then list recess activities students like best and the benefits of each. Finish by writing a short letter to the editor of the eEdition giving reasons why students benefit from recess.

Learning Standards: Responding to a variety of texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow