

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 March Madness

The NCAA college basketball championships are in full swing. Men's and women's teams are working together to reach the Elite Eight, Final Four and, of course, the National Championship game. Look through the eEdition and find an example of a group of people working together as a team to achieve a common goal. Write a short summary of the article, including what the team did that was successful and ways that their methods could be improved. Then think about a time you worked as a team in class, playing a sport or anything else. Write a paragraph analyzing that situation: Did everyone work together well? What could people have done differently?

Learning Standards: Responding personally, analytically and critically to a variety of written, visual, oral and electronic texts; providing examples of how texts influence students' lives and their role in society; applying knowledge, ideas and issues drawn from texts to students' lives and the lives of others.

2 eEdition Word Search

Electronic editions allow you to search their content for stories or topics that interest you. This ability to search also can help you build vocabulary and word skills. You can search, for example, to see how many times a word appears in the paper. As a class talk about what is making news in politics or government this week. Then make a list of people or topics that are in the news. Search the eEdition for a day or a week to see how many times each name or word appears in stories. Then create a bar graph to show your results.

Learning Standards: Using technology tools to enhance learning; understanding the operations and functions of technology systems; organizing data in charts, graphs and tables.

3 Tom and Jerry

Cartoonist Joseph Barbera was born March 24, 1911. Together with his animation partner, Bill Hanna, Barbera created the cartoon characters the Flintstones, the Jetsons, Tom and Jerry and Scooby-Doo, among others. Be like Barbera and create your own cartoon character. Base it on something in the news. Give your character a name and draw a comic strip showing the character in action.

Learning Standard: Identifying and using aspects of the craft of the speaker, writer and illustrator to formulate and express their ideas artistically.

4 Women's History

In honor of Women's History Month, read the local section of the eEdition this week to see what are the big issues in your community. Then pick a woman who's in a local news story. Pretend you've been assigned to interview the woman, and write a list of questions you would ask her. Then answer the questions in writing the way you think she would.

Learning Standards: Demonstrating the ability to write clear and grammatically correct sentences, paragraphs and compositions; acquiring information from multiple sources.

5 PlayStation

A new study suggests that playing video games could negatively affect learning for boys. The study looked at 64 boys ages 6 to 9 who did not own a video game system. Half of them were given a PlayStation. Researchers then tracked the academic development of all 64 over four months.

Learning Standard: Integrating listening, viewing, speaking, reading and writing skills for multiple purposes and in varied contexts.

The head researcher said that the learning problems that developed were probably not from the video games themselves, but were a result of the boys skipping educational activities in favor of playing video games. In groups, use the eEdition to come up with a list of 10 activities you could do instead of playing video games or watching TV. Divide the activities into categories, such as entertainment, education, arts and culture, and physical fitness. Share your ideas with the class.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow