

# news {..BYTES..}

## for eEditions

grades 2-5

### 1 Spring Pools

Every year in springtime, some amazing things happen in nature. One of the most amazing is the way frogs, toads, salamanders and other amphibians use temporary “spring pools” to lay eggs and breed. Spring pools are formed in low areas when snow melts. Frogs and other creatures use them for laying their eggs because there are no fish there that could eat the eggs or babies. Spring pools may only last several weeks or months before drying up, but they play a key role in the ecosystem. As a class, talk about changes that occur in nature when spring comes. Then pretend you are a creature affected by spring changes in nature. Draw a comic strip for the eEdition showing how you are affected as that creature.

Learning Standards: Explaining ecosystem concepts; using the craft of the illustrator to express ideas artistically.

### 2 Sand Storms

The Asian nation of China is working hard to become a more modern country. But this spring it is getting a huge headache from an old problem. Sandstorms have swept south from Inner Mongolia and the Gobi Desert to cover China’s capital city of Beijing and other cities. The storms are caused when strong winds pick up dust and dirt made loose by drought, overgrazing by animals, the cutting of forests and human development. The sand causes air pollution and works its way into homes, schools and offices. It also causes breathing problems and gets into eyes, ears and noses. With a partner, find news about weather in the eEdition this week. Write a paragraph describing what kind of weather is involved and how it is affecting people, wildlife or the environment.

Learning Standards: Investigating and describing what makes up weather and how it changes from day to day, from season to season and over long periods of time; analyzing the relationships between human activities and the atmosphere.

### 3 Attack Chili

Chili peppers are vegetables that have a very hot taste. Now military leaders in the Asian country of India have decided to use them to create a new weapon. The Indian military has announced that it will use “ghost chilis” to make tear gas hand grenades to use against terrorists or other opponents. The ghost chili is considered the world’s spiciest chili by the Guinness World Records organization. As a class, talk about ways scientists find new uses for things. In groups or alone, brainstorm a new use for something you use. Design an eEdition ad telling people about your idea.

Learning Standards: Responding to a variety of texts by making connections to students’ personal lives and the lives of others; reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively.

### 4 Search by Date

Your eEdition allows you to access information in a variety of ways. One feature allows you to 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.

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

### 5 Less Salt

Everyone knows that getting exercise and eating healthy foods will make kids and their families more healthy. And one of the keys to healthy eating is choosing fewer snacks or fast foods that contain salt, sugar or fats. The Pepsi and Coca-Cola companies already have announced plans to stop

selling sugary drinks in U.S. schools, and last week PepsiCo announced it is taking more steps. PepsiCo said it plans to cut the amount of salt (sodium) in its Pepsi drinks and Frito-Lay chips by one-fourth in five years. Over the next 10 years it said it would also reduce the sugar in foods and drinks by 25 percent and fats by 15 percent. The Kraft Foods company and Campbell’s Soup also have said they will reduce the amount of salt in foods. As a class, talk about foods that are healthy choices for snacks. Then design a grocery ad for the eEdition showing these foods in a way that would make families want to buy them.

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.

A Teaching Tool  
for Tomorrow