

# news {..BYTES..}

## for eEditions

grades 2-5

### 1 Butterflies

With their black-and-orange wings, monarch butterflies are one of the most familiar species of the insect world. They also are one of the most amazing, migrating up to thousands of miles each year from the United States to forests in Mexico. But this winter has been hard on monarchs that made it on their journey south to Mexico. Severe hailstorms and rainstorms have killed or injured hundreds of thousands of monarchs. As a result, their population is down by as much as 50 percent, scientists report, and many may not make it back to the U.S. In groups or pairs, find an example of a migrating animal, bird or insect in the eEdition. Write a paragraph describing the challenges this creature might face while migrating.

Learning Standards: Explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

### 2 Ant-Eating Dino

Most people know dinosaurs were meat-eaters and plant-eaters, but did you know they also were ant-eaters? That's what a dinosaur fossil in the Asian nation of China was, according to scientists who have seen it. The fossil, which was discovered by a farmer in a southern region of the country, was just a foot and one-half long, but it was built for speed, scientists said. That's because it probably had to run quickly to escape sail-backed predators known as spinosaurs in the time it lived about 85 million years ago. As a class, discuss how fossils can teach scientists new things about ancient creatures. Then imagine you could go on a fossil-hunting trip to China. Draw a comic strip for the eEdition showing you learning about fossils and China on your trip.

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

### 3 Graphics or Text?

An eEdition allows you to view stories the way they are displayed graphically in the print newspaper or as text-only files. Each type has its advantages. Search the different sections of today's eEdition and find one story you feel would be best viewed displayed graphically and one story you feel would be best viewed as text only. Write a paragraph explaining why one story was better viewed when displayed as it was in the newspaper and why the other was more effective as text-only. Write a paragraph explaining how this choice could affect the way you save stories in research projects.

Learning Standards: Making informed choices among technology systems, resources and services; creating criteria to compare and contrast technology systems, resources and services.

### 4 Volunteer Month

April is National Volunteer Month, a time when families and individuals volunteer their time to make their communities better. Some volunteer in schools, some clean up parks and some volunteer for groups like First Book. People helping First Book work to provide books for reading programs that help kids in cities across America. As a class, talk about ways families and kids can volunteer together to help others. Then find an eEdition story about a person or program that could be helped by volunteers. Write a note to a parent suggesting ways you could volunteer as a family to help.

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.

### 5 Women in Space

March was Women's History Month, but April is the month women are making history in space. After last week's launch of the space shuttle Discovery, four women were serving on space missions high above the Earth. That is the most women ever to be serving in space at one time. Three of

the women are taking part in Discovery's 13-day mission to the International Space Station. One is serving on the space station. One of Discovery's women is a former school teacher, Dorothy Metcalf-Lindenburger, who taught high school science before joining America's NASA space agency. Fifty-four women have now flown space missions. The first U.S. woman in space was Sally Ride, who blasted into orbit 27 years ago. As a class, talk about ways women are succeeding in different careers. Then find a successful woman in the eEdition and write a paragraph describing the qualities you think she needed to succeed.

Learning Standards: Understanding how people of diverse cultures have contributed to developments in science; explaining how individuals in history demonstrate good character and personal virtue; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

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