



Your students are already the most technologically savvy—and dependent—generation in history. Our special section explores why technology is important, how it affects your students' lives, and some possibilities it holds for the future.

## ■ Technology Basics

The younger the age group, the greater the use of and comfort level with technology. Here are some stats about 18- to 24-year-olds from MetaFacts, Inc. Figures for your students' age are likely even higher.

- uses a social-networking or online community group, such as Facebook, LinkedIn, or Ryze: 70 %
- listens to music via MP3s or portable CDs: 70 %
- downloads music or MP3s: 61 %
- watches movies on DVD: 53 %
- shares digital images on own blog or Web site: 32 %
- writes own blog or online journal: 25 %.

Check out the graph at [metafacts.wordpress.com/2008/11/20/age-matters-when-using-a-pc-and-the-Internet](http://metafacts.wordpress.com/2008/11/20/age-matters-when-using-a-pc-and-the-Internet).

## ■ Word's Worth

● **complement (v)**: to complete or perfect something. It comes from the Latin *complere*, “to fill up” (*p. IV*). It is often (but should not be) confused with *compliment*, “to express esteem, respect, admiration, or affection.” Although it can be traced back to the same Latin origin (*complere*), *compliment* comes to English by way of the Spanish word *cumplir*, “to be courteous.” How might being courteous relate to the idea of “filling up”?

## ■ Content-Area Questions

### CULTURE/SOCIAL STUDIES

1. What item that we depend on today do more than 35 percent of teens think will be obsolete in five years? (the gas-powered car)
2. What personal qualities does producer Jonathan Warner think are necessary to make video games? (a love of games; ability to work with people; detailed knowledge of “the specifics of the job”)

### GEOGRAPHY

1. Why is it important for the President to be able to travel quickly and safely to all parts of the country and the world?

### LANGUAGE ARTS

1. What is a “call sign”?

### MATH

1. See graphs, *p. VIII*: By about how many percentage points is the number of girls who use cell phones every day greater than boys? (nearly 20)
2. The number of U.S. households that had only landlines changed by about how many percentage points from June 2003 to June 2008? (about 20)

### SCIENCE

1. What kinds of defenses does *Air Force One* have? Why do you think most are secret? What part does technology play in security concerns?
2. Why is the i-LIMB considered bionic? (The artificial hand has parts that allow it to duplicate the actions of a natural hand.)
3. Why is energy efficiency increasingly important? If you had access to a Biomechanical Energy Harvester, what would you use it for and why?

# LAST CHANCE

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## News: Sleeping Beauties (p. 3)

### ► NCSS STANDARD

People, places, & environments

*Mummies in Europe? They pop up here and there—in Ireland, Denmark, and Britain, among a few other places. But by far the most famous and most plentiful are the mummies of Sicily.*

### ■ Backstory

Rich in history, Sicily is located in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. It has been occupied by numerous peoples in the last 10,000 years. Just since the 3rd century B.C., the island has changed hands between the Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Spanish, and the Bourbons of France. In 1861, Sicily became part of Italy, from which it gained regional autonomy in 1947.

Sicily's separation from the mainland helps explain the stubborn longevity of the island's most famous product, the Mafia. Probably established sometime during the Middle Ages, the criminal underground has survived countless attempts to eradicate it.

The largest collection of mummies on the island resides beneath the Capuchin monastery in Palermo. Historians tell us that the monks outgrew their graveyard, and when Brother Silvestro of Gubbio died in 1599, they began building the now-famous system of catacombs in which to lay him and his brothers to rest. In time, joining them became a status symbol among the townspeople.

### ■ Review and Reflect

- What natural properties allowed the first mummies to be preserved? (The cool, dry limestone of Sicily was a natural mummifier.)
- Why do you think people would want the bodies of their loved ones to be preserved after death? Would you want the same thing for you and your family? Why or why not?



### WEB LINKS

- The real thing, not for the faint of heart: [members.tripod.com/~Motomom/index-3.html](http://members.tripod.com/~Motomom/index-3.html).



## American History: Eleanor Roosevelt (pp. 19-21)

### ► NCSS STANDARD

Civic ideals & practices

*With Michelle Obama in the White House, kids may become aware of a different kind of active, independent First Lady. But this model was set long ago by one of the 20th century's most remarkable Americans, Eleanor Roosevelt.*

### ■ Backstory

Eleanor Roosevelt is often said to have been her husband's "eyes and ears." Limited by his polio, New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt would send his wife to inspect state institutions. As First Lady, she ranged even further, driven by her concern for the poor and the oppressed.

One of her most famous acts

occurred in 1939. When African-American soprano Marian Anderson was denied the use of a Washington concert hall owned by the all-white Daughters of the American Revolution, Eleanor arranged for Anderson to sing at the Lincoln Memorial. This extraordinary gesture helped set the stage for the civil rights era that began in the 1950s—and, by extension, for the presidency of Barack Obama 70 years later.

### ■ Rapid Review

- What important document did Eleanor Roosevelt help get the UN to adopt? (the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
- Did Eleanor Roosevelt

immediately charge into her role as a crusading First Lady? Explain. (No. Roosevelt was unsure of herself on "new and untried ground," and felt her way along.)

### ■ Bookshelf

- Roosevelt, Eleanor, *The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt* (Da Capo, 1992).



### WEB LINKS

- Selections from Roosevelt's newspaper column, "My Day": [pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eleanor/sfeature/myday.html](http://pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eleanor/sfeature/myday.html). For the complete database: [gwu.edu/~erpapers/myday](http://gwu.edu/~erpapers/myday).