



Use the different sections of this letter to begin conversations with your child about what he or she is learning.

## Big Idea: How do adaptations help plants and animals?

Ask your child how this week’s reading selection helps him or her answer this question.

## This week’s reading selection: *Survival at 40 Below*

**Summary:** In the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, animals have developed a surprising number of adaptations to survive the freezing temperatures. Many of them stay cozy beneath thick fur, and some burrow underground to stay warm. One species of frog can even stop its heart to conserve energy!

► **DISCUSS** with your child different animals that live in cold habitats.

**Vocabulary** Encourage your child to use these words while discussing the reading selection.

<b>sheer</b>	<i>adjective</i>	steep
<b>grazing</b>	<i>verb</i>	feeding on growing grass
<b>cache</b>	<i>verb</i>	to place or store something in a hidden or secret place
<b>esophagus</b>	<i>noun</i>	the muscular tube through which food moves from the throat to the stomach
<b>insulating</b>	<i>adjective</i>	covering or surrounding with a material that slows or stops the flow of electricity, heat, or sound
<b>browses</b>	<i>verb</i>	feeds or nibbles on
<b>ceases</b>	<i>verb</i>	comes or brings to an end; stops
<b>vital</b>	<i>adjective</i>	necessary to or supporting life
<b>conserve</b>	<i>verb</i>	to keep and protect from harm, loss, or change
<b>prey</b>	<i>noun</i>	an animal that is hunted by another animal for food
<b>withered</b>	<i>adjective</i>	dried up or shriveled

**Spelling** Practice these words with your child.

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|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. antibiotic | 8. audiovisual    | 15. biologist |
| 2. audible    | 9. auditorium     | 16. biology   |
| 3. audience   | 10. auditory      | 17. biome     |
| 4. audio      | 11. biodegradable | 18. biopsy    |
| 5. audiobook  | 12. biodiversity  | 19. biosphere |
| 6. audiology  | 13. biographer    | 20. inaudible |
| 7. audiotape  | 14. biography     |               |

### Challenge

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|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. microbiologist | 2. audiologist | 3. symbiotic |
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## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will draft and revise his or her research report.

**Grammar:** Your child will learn about, identify, and practice using irregular verbs.

► **GIVE** your child a list of verbs, such as *sit, eat, sleep, see, and grow*. Then have your child identify the past-tense form for each verb. (*sat, ate, slept, saw, and grew*)