



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

Big Idea: What makes a national treasure?

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

This week’s reading selection: *Our Constitution*

Summary: After the war for our independence was won, our new country was in desperate need of a strong and effective government. Delegates believed that a new constitution, or written plan for government, was essential to the survival of the country. But could the states agree on how this new government should operate?

► **DISCUSS** with your child the importance of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Vocabulary Have your child make flashcards to practice reading and defining these words.

separate	<i>adjective</i>	set apart; not joined
ensure	<i>verb</i>	to make sure or certain; guarantee
at stake	<i>prepositional phrase</i>	in a position to be lost if something goes wrong
yield	<i>verb</i>	to stop fighting or disagreeing
welfare	<i>noun</i>	the condition of being happy and healthy; well-being
individual	<i>adjective</i>	single; separate
federal	<i>adjective</i>	having to do with the central government of the United States
republic	<i>noun</i>	a form of government in which the power belongs to the people and in which the people elect representatives to manage the government
aim	<i>noun</i>	goal
limit	<i>verb</i>	to keep within a bound or bounds; restrict
demand	<i>noun</i>	something that is asked for forcefully
preserve	<i>verb</i>	to keep from being lost, damaged, or decayed; protect
petition	<i>verb</i>	to make a formal request to
grievance	<i>noun</i>	a reason for complaining or being unhappy with a situation

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. antibodies | 8. photogenic | 15. proposal |
| 2. antifreeze | 9. photograph | 16. telephoto |
| 3. antiseptic | 10. photosynthesis | 17. thermal |
| 4. antisocial | 11. progeny | 18. thermometer |
| 5. antivirus | 12. promotion | 19. thermos |
| 6. geothermal | 13. propeller | 20. thermostat |
| 7. photocopy | 14. proponent | |

Challenge

1. antibacterial 2. hypothermia 3. propagate

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will revise, edit, publish, and present his or her response to nonfiction.

Grammar: Your child will learn about, identify, and practice using demonstrative, reflexive, and relative pronouns.

► **HAVE** your child practice presenting his or her response to nonfiction writing to you. Remind your child to speak clearly and to maintain eye contact.