



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

Big Idea: How can we learn from our past?

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

This week's reading selection: *The Cherokee: Gold and Tears*

Summary: This selection gives an overview of Cherokee history with a focus on early interactions with European settlers, adoption of European culture, and the eventual forced migration west that has come to be known as the Trail of Tears.

Essential Questions: What impact have Native Americans had on this country? How were early Native American communities forced to change?

► **DISCUSS** with your child what it means to treat people fairly and without discrimination.

Vocabulary

Focus: The words below appear in this week's reading selection.

characters	<i>noun</i>	marks or signs used as symbols in writing
literate	<i>adjective</i>	able to read and write
mine	<i>verb</i>	to dig in the earth
principal	<i>adjective</i>	greatest or first, as in importance, rank, or value
surge	<i>noun</i>	a sudden increase or rise
treaty	<i>noun</i>	a formal agreement, especially between nations

► **ASK** your child to draw pictures to illustrate the vocabulary words.

Spelling

Focus: This week your child will spell words with the /oi/ sound, content words, and words with different shades of meaning.

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|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. scorching | 6. moist | 11. joy |
| 2. royal | 7. voice | 12. blinding |
| 3. mammal | 8. oyster | 13. point |
| 4. spoil | 9. coin | 14. reptile |
| 5. insect | 10. bright | 15. warm |

Challenge

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|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. employer | 2. nocturnal | 3. predator |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|

► **HAVE** your child practice spelling these words.

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will draft, revise, edit, and publish a personal narrative. He or she will then learn elements of a fantasy story (make-believe setting, creatures; characters and events not realistic) in preparation for writing one next week.

Grammar: Your child will also be learning about adjectives, or words that modify or describe a noun or pronoun.

► **ASK** your child to describe something he or she has recently experienced. Encourage him or her to use as many adjectives as possible.