



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

**Big Idea:** How do animals interact with their environments?

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

**This week's reading selection:** *Einstein Anderson and the Mighty Ants*

**Summary:** Einstein and Paloma are back and faced with yet another scheme—and a scientific mystery to solve. Their classmate Stanley wants to breed and sell giant ants. He thinks his plan is foolproof, but he may not have biology on his side.

**Essential Questions:** How do people use animals? What are some special features of animals you are familiar with? How can special animal features be useful for people?

► **DISCUSS** with your child why having all the facts is important before pursuing any endeavor. Together, think of examples that illustrate this advice.

## Vocabulary

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

<b>corporation</b>	<i>noun</i>	a group of people who have been given the legal power to act as one person
<b>economy</b>	<i>noun</i>	system of managing production and distribution of money and goods
<b>exoskeletons</b>	<i>noun</i>	external hard coverings, such as lobster shells
<b>harness</b>	<i>verb</i>	to control and make use of
<b>schemes</b>	<i>noun</i>	underhanded or secret plans or plots
<b>technology</b>	<i>noun</i>	the use of scientific knowledge for practical purposes

► **READ** aloud a definition, and ask your child to identify the correct vocabulary word.

## Spelling

**Focus:** This week your child will spell multiple-meaning words and words with the suffixes *-ion/-tion/-sion* and *-al*.

- |             |              |               |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. normal   | 6. comical   | 11. match     |
| 2. tension  | 7. vacation  | 12. reaction  |
| 3. scale    | 8. present   | 13. content   |
| 4. eruption | 9. second    | 14. coastal   |
| 5. lead     | 10. criminal | 15. pollution |

## Challenge

- |             |             |              |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. entrance | 2. survival | 3. explosion |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|

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

## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will use an idea web to choose a topic for a research report. He or she will then use sources to research the topic, take notes, and use a graphic organizer to plan the report.

**Grammar:** Your child will also be learning about the correct use of capital letters and commas in dates, addresses, titles, and the names of cities and states.

► **ASK** your child to tell you what he or she has learned so far about the topic for the research report. Discuss which facts are important enough to be included in the report.