



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: *Masters of Illusion*

Summary: To avoid danger, certain animals will trick predators by changing their appearance. These "masters of illusion" can blend into the environment or even disguise themselves as a more dangerous animal.

► **DISCUSS** with your child different ways that animals camouflage themselves.

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

illusion	<i>noun</i>	a false impression or belief; misleading idea
genes	<i>noun</i>	tiny units of a cell of an animal or plant that determines the characteristics that an offspring inherits from its parent or parents
target	<i>noun</i>	a mark or object that is aimed at
increase	<i>verb</i>	to make or become larger in size or number
developed	<i>verb</i>	brought or came gradually into being
generations	<i>noun</i>	steps in the line of descent from a common ancestor
ferocious	<i>adjective</i>	savage or fierce
appear	<i>verb</i>	to come into sight; be seen
transparent	<i>adjective</i>	allowing light to pass through so that things on the other side can be clearly seen
ripple	<i>noun</i>	a very small wave
coral	<i>noun</i>	a hard substance like stone, found in tropical seas
unless	<i>conjunction</i>	except on the condition that

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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| 1. coauthor | 8. forego | 15. misfortunate |
| 2. coeducation | 9. forerunner | 16. mishap |
| 3. coexist | 10. foresee | 17. misinform |
| 4. cooperate | 11. foresight | 18. misrepresent |
| 5. coordinate | 12. forewarn | 19. misunderstand |
| 6. coproduce | 13. foreword | 20. misuse |
| 7. forecast | 14. misbehave | |

Challenge

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| 1. coincidence | 2. foreboding | 3. misconduct |
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Language Arts

Writing: Your child will use a TIDE graphic organizer to plan an explanatory text. Then he or she will draft, revise, and edit the text.

Grammar: Your child will learn about, identify, and use possessive nouns and pronouns.

► **ASK** your child to tell you the topic of his or her explanatory text. Then discuss the various steps of the process that should be listed in his or her writing.