



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: *Give Me Liberty!*

**Summary:** During the sweltering summer of 1776, the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to debate the relationship between the colonies and Great Britain. Many believed that the time for independence had come, so it was agreed that they would draft what would become the historic declaration of our independence.

► **DISCUSS** with your child the purpose and importance of the Declaration of Independence.

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

<b>pamphlet</b>	<i>noun</i>	a small book that has a paper cover
<b>draft</b>	<i>verb</i>	to make a sketch, plan, or rough copy of something
<b>delegates</b>	<i>noun</i>	people who are chosen to act for others; representatives
<b>aloof</b>	<i>adjective</i>	having or showing little or no concern or friendliness
<b>retreat</b>	<i>verb</i>	to draw or move back
<b>abstained</b>	<i>verb</i>	kept oneself from doing something
<b>favored</b>	<i>verb</i>	approved of; believed in; supported
<b>denounced</b>	<i>verb</i>	spoke out against; objected to
<b>deliberations</b>	<i>noun</i>	careful discussions before a decision
<b>version</b>	<i>noun</i>	a form of something that is different in some way from other forms
<b>durable</b>	<i>adjective</i>	able to last a long time in spite of much use or wear
<b>parchment</b>	<i>noun</i>	the skin of sheep, goats, or other animals prepared so that it can be written on
<b>secure</b>	<i>verb</i>	to make safe
<b>alter</b>	<i>verb</i>	to make or become different; change

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

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|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. aquatic   | 8. enrage       | 15. forbidden  |
| 2. artistic  | 9. envision     | 16. majestic   |
| 3. athletic  | 10. exhale      | 17. moisten    |
| 4. awaken    | 11. expire      | 18. strengthen |
| 5. engrave   | 12. exterminate | 19. sweeten    |
| 6. enlighten | 13. extinguish  | 20. volcanic   |
| 7. enlist    | 14. exude       |                |

### Challenge

- |               |             |              |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. aeronautic | 2. enamored | 3. explosion |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|

## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will use a previously-read nonfiction selection as the topic of a response to nonfiction paragraph.

**Grammar:** Your child will learn about, identify, and practice using comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs.

► **HAVE** your child discuss the nonfiction text that he or she is using for the writing assignment. Have your child tell you the most important details about the selection.