



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

Big Idea: How has the United States changed over time?

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

This week's reading selection: *The Starving Time*

Summary: When the Virginia Company of London sent settlers to North America, they intended to profit from the venture. The colonists who embarked on the journey were prepared to trade and mine for precious metals—but not to survive off the land. For many of them, the first years would be marked by struggle and starvation.

► **DISCUSS** what it would be like to move to a new community. What would some of the challenges be?

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

immunity	<i>noun</i>	the ability of the body to resist a disease
chartered	<i>verb</i>	created a document that establishes rights and obligations for a person, group of people, or company
precious metals	<i>noun</i>	rare metals that have a high price, such as gold, silver, and platinum
artisans	<i>noun</i>	people who are skilled in a particular craft
navigational	<i>adjective</i>	describing a tool used to figure out the position and course of ships and aircraft
propulsion	<i>noun</i>	the force that moves something forward or onward
irrigate	<i>verb</i>	to supply land with water through streams, channels, or pipes
strategic	<i>adjective</i>	relating to a plan for achieving a goal
hampered	<i>verb</i>	got in the way of action or progress
massive	<i>adjective</i>	of great size or extent; very big
dwindling	<i>verb</i>	becoming less or smaller; shrinking slowly
succumbing	<i>verb</i>	not able to resist a force
depletion	<i>noun</i>	a serious decrease of a quantity
emaciated	<i>adjective</i>	made very thin due to a lack of nourishment
agricultural	<i>adjective</i>	having to do with farming or farms
permanence	<i>noun</i>	a state of lasting a long time

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. allergist | 8. chemist | 15. mythology |
| 2. antagonist | 9. cryptology | 16. paleontology |
| 3. astrology | 10. dermatology | 17. protagonist |
| 4. audiology | 11. ecology | 18. psychology |
| 5. biology | 12. florist | 19. typist |
| 6. cardiology | 13. geologist | 20. vocalist |
| 7. cartoonist | 14. journalist | |

Challenge

1. anthropology 2. archaeology 3. meteorologist

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will choose a topic for a persuasive essay. Then he or she will draft, revise, and edit the essay.

Grammar: Your child will learn about, identify, and practice using interjections.

► **HAVE** with your child list several interjections, and then generate sentences using the interjections.