



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

## Big Idea: Where do the people in our country come from?

Ask your child how this week’s reading selections help him or her answer this question.

### This week’s reading selections:

**Ben and the Emancipation Proclamation:** Young Ben is a slave and a tailor’s apprentice. Ben’s father taught him the alphabet, but Ben learned how to read by looking at street signs, box labels, and newspapers. During the Civil War, Ben was sent to a slave prison where he read the Emancipation Proclamation to the other prisoners.

**The Emancipation Proclamation:** President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declares that on January 1, 1863, all persons held as slaves within any state in rebellion against the United States shall be forever free. It also states that freed men could join the US military.

► **DISCUSS** with your child why we read historical documents and what we can learn from them.

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

<b>apprenticed</b>	<i>verb</i>	took on or placed as an assistant, a person who is hoping to learn a skill or art
<b>clerk</b>	<i>noun</i>	a person who sells good to customers in a store
<b>dense</b>	<i>adjective</i>	packed closely together; thick
<b>abolition</b>	<i>noun</i>	the act of ending; stopping
<b>emancipation</b>	<i>noun</i>	freedom from slavery or control
<b>plantation</b>	<i>noun</i>	a large estate or farm worked by laborers who live there
<b>whittled</b>	<i>verb</i>	cut small bits or pieces from wood with a knife
<b>flee</b>	<i>verb</i>	to run away
<b>regiment</b>	<i>noun</i>	a military unit made up of several battalions
<b>jostled</b>	<i>verb</i>	bumped or pushed roughly
<b>designated</b>	<i>adjective</i>	marked, separated, or called by a particular name or title
<b>rebellion</b>	<i>noun</i>	an armed fight against one’s government

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

- |               |                 |                |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. additional | 8. educational  | 15. personal   |
| 2. agreement  | 9. enrollment   | 16. political  |
| 3. amusement  | 10. environment | 17. renewal    |
| 4. annual     | 11. excitement  | 18. settlement |
| 5. argument   | 12. improvement | 19. treatment  |
| 6. assignment | 13. musical     | 20. tropical   |
| 7. department | 14. original    |                |

### Challenge

1. continental    2. entertainment    3. mechanical

### Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will review the writer’s goals for narrative writing and practice revising for action and describing words.

**Grammar:** Your child will learn about compound sentences, and then practice writing compound sentences.

► **ASK** your child to describe a sporting event using action and describing words.