



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

Big Idea: What is your relationship with nature?

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

This week's reading selection: *Why Is the World Green?*

Summary: When a jungle in Venezuela is flooded to make way for a new hydroelectric dam, much of the land is broken into small islands. As scientists watch, life on the islands slowly begins to wither away. During their investigation, scientists discover that an interruption in one part of a habitat's food web can have wide-reaching effects.

► **DISCUSS** with your child different ways we can help the environment.

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

flora	<i>noun</i>	the plant life of a particular region
barren	<i>adjective</i>	not able to produce anything
obstructed	<i>verb</i>	was in the way of
ramble	<i>verb</i>	to wander about; roam
discern	<i>verb</i>	to decide something after looking at and studying things
slithered	<i>verb</i>	glided like a snake
organic	<i>adjective</i>	related to living matter
consumed	<i>verb</i>	ate
growth rings	<i>noun</i>	layers in a tree that develops after a regular period of growth, and which is often used to measure the tree's age
calculated	<i>verb</i>	found out something using numbers or quantities
assessed	<i>verb</i>	judged the importance or value of
restored	<i>verb</i>	brought back or re-established
crucial	<i>adjective</i>	very important

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. apathetic | 8. memoir | 15. remembrance |
| 2. apathy | 9. memorable | 16. subscribe |
| 3. ascribe | 10. memorandum | 17. subscription |
| 4. conscript | 11. memorial | 18. superscript |
| 5. empathy | 12. pathogen | 19. sympathetic |
| 6. inscription | 13. pathology | 20. telepathic |
| 7. memento | 14. pathos | |

Challenge

1. circumscribe 2. indescribable 3. memorabilia

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will choose a topic for a research report and begin to research and collect relevant information.

Grammar: Your child will learn about, identify, and use colons and semicolons.

► **DISCUSS** with your child different resources, such as books, encyclopedias, magazines, websites, and interviews that he or she could use to collect information.