



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: *Mice in the Mint*

**Summary:** Penny, a clever field mouse, befriends Alexander Hamilton and accompanies him from the Revolutionary War through his time as the leader of the Department of the Treasury. She recounts the events that led to the country's national bank and the Mint, the first federal building constructed under the United States Constitution.

► **DISCUSS** with your child the purpose and importance of the United States Mint.

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

<b>mint</b>	<i>noun</i>	a place where coins are made
<b>secretary</b>	<i>noun</i>	a person who is the head of a government department
<b>tactics</b>	<i>noun</i>	methods planned and used to win a competition or achieve a goal
<b>strategy</b>	<i>noun</i>	the planning and directing of actions used to win a competition or achieve a goal
<b>delivered</b>	<i>verb</i>	took to the proper place or person
<b>command</b>	<i>noun</i>	the ability to use or control
<b>articles</b>	<i>noun</i>	separate sections of a formal document
<b>uphold</b>	<i>verb</i>	to support or defend
<b>stance</b>	<i>noun</i>	a position or opinion
<b>cement</b>	<i>noun</i>	something serving to unite firmly
<b>bind</b>	<i>verb</i>	to tie together; fasten
<b>specifically</b>	<i>adverb</i>	in regard to something mentioned explicitly or in detail
<b>complex</b>	<i>adjective</i>	hard to understand or do
<b>item</b>	<i>noun</i>	a single thing in a group or list

## Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. abbreviate  | 8. dedicate    | 15. likelihood |
| 2. accelerate  | 9. falsehood   | 16. nature     |
| 3. adventure   | 10. feature    | 17. originate  |
| 4. brotherhood | 11. fracture   | 18. picture    |
| 5. captivate   | 12. girlhood   | 19. sisterhood |
| 6. capture     | 13. irritate   | 20. statehood  |
| 7. complicate  | 14. knighthood |                |

## Challenge

1. daughterhood 2. procrastinate 3. treasure

## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish a news story.

**Grammar:** Your child will learn about and practice using commas and quotation marks in direct quotations and dialogue.

► **DISCUSS** a news story in a newspaper or magazine. Ask your child to identify the answers to the six basic questions *who, what, when, where, why, and how*.