



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

Big Idea: Why do we need a government?

Your child should think about ways each reading selection over the next six weeks can answer this question.

This week's reading selection: *The Road to Democracy*

Summary: This informational article explains democracy's Greek origins, its influence on other world governments through the centuries, and its prominence today. It also describes the representative democracy of the United States.

Essential Questions: What are some ways that people make decisions as a group? What ways are the easiest? What ways are the most fair?

► **DISCUSS** with your child why a government in which all citizens have a voice might be the most just and fair.

Vocabulary

Focus: The words below appear in this week's reading selection.

colonists	<i>noun</i>	people who helped found the thirteen British colonies
documents	<i>noun</i>	important papers that give official proof or information
election	<i>noun</i>	the act of choosing something by voting
empire	<i>noun</i>	a group of countries, lands, or people under one government
government	<i>noun</i>	the group of people in charge of ruling a country, state, or city
nation	<i>noun</i>	a group of people living under one government
peaceful	<i>adjective</i>	free from war or disorder
region	<i>noun</i>	any large area or territory
revolution	<i>noun</i>	the overthrow of a system of government to set up a new one
trend	<i>noun</i>	a growing style or tendency that seems to be followed
unity	<i>noun</i>	the state of being in full agreement and harmony
vote	<i>noun</i>	a formal expression of a wish or choice

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

Spelling

Focus: Your child will spell words with the prefixes *re-*, *pre-*, *mis-*, *un-*, *con-*, and *in-/im-*.

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| 1. mismatch | 6. incorrect | 11. confide |
| 2. unclear | 7. unload | 12. impolite |
| 3. reread | 8. preview | 13. prefix |
| 4. unzip | 9. restart | 14. unfair |
| 5. concur | 10. misplace | 15. improper |

Challenge

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| 1. impossible | 2. preschool | 3. inexpensive |
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► **HAVE** your child practice spelling these words.

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will learn that the purpose of persuasive writing is to convince readers to agree with an opinion. He or she will plan, draft, revise, and edit a persuasive essay with the help of graphic organizers, peer conferencing, and checklists.

Grammar: Your child will learn about subject/verb and pronoun/antecedent agreement this week.

► **ASK** your child to summarize the argument in his or her persuasive essay. Talk about whether the reasons and evidence for the opinion are compelling.