



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

## Big Idea: How do adaptations help plants and animals?

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

### This week's reading selection: *How & Why Stories*

**Summary:** A collection of tales from around the world explaining physical characteristics and behavioral traits of various animals. Discover what some believed to be the cause of bats and owls being nocturnal animals, why beetles have shells, why ants live everywhere, and why rabbits and bears have stumpy tails.

► **DISCUSS** with your child different folktales you have read or know about.

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

<b>attempt</b>	<i>noun</i>	a try; effort
<b>furious</b>	<i>adjective</i>	very angry
<b>council</b>	<i>noun</i>	a group of people called together to discuss a problem or other matter
<b>arranged</b>	<i>verb</i>	to put in order or position
<b>gorgeous</b>	<i>adjective</i>	very pleasing to look at; beautiful
<b>poke</b>	<i>noun</i>	something moving slowly or lazily
<b>signal</b>	<i>noun</i>	something that warns, directs, or informs
<b>judge</b>	<i>verb</i>	to find something wrong with
<b>longed</b>	<i>verb</i>	wanted very much; yearned
<b>mainland</b>	<i>noun</i>	the chief land mass of a country or continent, as distinguished from an island
<b>sly</b>	<i>adjective</i>	clever and shrewd
<b>gleam</b>	<i>noun</i>	a faint or short appearance or sign

### Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. analogy      | 8. geocentric | 15. millimeter  |
| 2. catalog      | 9. geode      | 16. motorcycle  |
| 3. centimeter   | 10. geography | 17. perimeter   |
| 4. cyclops      | 11. geologist | 18. speedometer |
| 5. diameter     | 12. geometry  | 19. tricycle    |
| 6. encyclopedia | 13. logical   | 20. unicycle    |
| 7. epilogue     | 14. logo      |                 |

### Challenge

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|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. apogee | 2. barometer | 3. cyclical |
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### Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will learn to use a Venn diagram. Then he or she will begin to draft a compare and contrast paragraph.

**Grammar:** Your child will learn about, identify, and use subordinating and correlative conjunctions.

► **DISCUSS** two different animals, such as cats and dogs. Then have your child create a Venn diagram to list the similarities and differences between the animals.