

Our Heritage, Our History

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 selection helps him or her answer this question.

This week's reading selection: *The Unbreakable Code*

Summary: John's grandfather shares the story of when he left the reservation to join the Marines during World War II. They needed people who could invent an unbreakable code using the Navajo language, so his grandfather became a code talker and helped the war effort.

► **DISCUSS** with your child what you can learn from your ancestors and how your heritage can inspire you.

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

faint	<i>adjective</i>	not clear or strong; weak
sagged	<i>verb</i>	hung down
sternly	<i>adverb</i>	in a strict or hard manner
platoon	<i>noun</i>	a military unit that contains two or more squads
desperately	<i>adverb</i>	with great urgency
operations	<i>noun</i>	the acts or ways of working or directing
transmission	<i>noun</i>	the broadcasting of radio or television waves
recruits	<i>noun</i>	newly enlisted soldiers or sailors
creased	<i>adjective</i>	marked by folds or wrinkles
battered	<i>adjective</i>	worn and weathered
broadcasting	<i>verb</i>	sending out music, news, or other kinds of programs by radio or television

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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| 1. cell phone | 8. merry-go-round | 15. salad dressing |
| 2. check-in | 9. old-fashioned | 16. self-service |
| 3. father-in-law | 10. one-third | 17. sleeping bag |
| 4. good-looking | 11. paper clip | 18. time line |
| 5. high school | 12. ready-made | 19. toll-free |
| 6. jumping jack | 13. right angle | 20. well-dressed |
| 7. life jacket | 14. rocking horse | |

Challenge

1. physical education 2. respiratory system 3. three-dimensional

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will review the elements of narrative writing: a main character, setting, and plot. Then he or she will begin drafting a narrative fantasy.

Grammar: Your child will learn about, identify, and use compound subjects and predicates.

► **HAVE** your child write four sentences, one each with a single subject, single predicate, compound subject, and compound predicate.