



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

Big Idea: Why are cycles important in nature?

Ask your child how this week’s reading selections help him or her answer this question.

This week’s reading selections:

Ookpik: The Travels of a Snowy Owl On the arrival of autumn, snowy owls travel thousands of miles in search of food and a warmer climate. Ookpik, a newborn snowy owl, embarks on his first journey.

Critters Crossing! In many places, roads interrupt the migratory paths of some animals. To keep migrating animals safe, people have come up with ingenious solutions to keep animals away from roads.

► **DISCUSS** with your child life cycles of different plants and animals.

Vocabulary Encourage your child to use these vocabulary words while discussing the reading selections.

downy	<i>adjective</i>	covered with fuzzy hair or soft feathers
seldom	<i>adverb</i>	not often
blustery	<i>adjective</i>	characterized by violent winds
exceptionally	<i>adverb</i>	more than is normal or expected
scurrying	<i>verb</i>	moving quickly with small steps
lurched	<i>verb</i>	moved forward in a sudden and unsteady manner
veered	<i>verb</i>	changed direction
indifferent	<i>adjective</i>	characterized by a lack of concern or interest
vegetation	<i>noun</i>	plants
functions	<i>noun</i>	actions that must occur for something to work
emerging	<i>adjective</i>	rising to prominence
specialized	<i>adjective</i>	made for a specific purpose
aerial	<i>adjective</i>	existing above the ground
ancestry	<i>noun</i>	family from which a living creature is descended

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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| 1. geode | 8. photocopy | 15. terrace |
| 2. geography | 9. photogenic | 16. terrain |
| 3. geological | 10. photographer | 17. terrapin |
| 4. geologist | 11. photographic | 18. terrarium |
| 5. geometry | 12. photography | 19. terrier |
| 6. geothermal | 13. photosynthesis | 20. territorial |
| 7. Mediterranean | 14. telephoto | |

Challenge

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| 1. extraterrestrial | 2. photon | 3. subterranean |
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Language Arts

Writing: Your child will work with a partner to choose a science topic for informational writing. Then the partners will begin to research their topics using different sources of information.

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

► **ASK** your child to tell you his or her informative writing topic. Discuss different sources that he or she could use to find information about the topic.