



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 selection helps him or her answer this question.

This week’s reading selection: *Monsoons: From Myth to Modern Science*

Summary: Monsoons, seasonal weather patterns marked by changes in precipitation and atmospheric pressure, have impacted Vietnam for as long as people can remember. Long before modern science, the Vietnamese people created traditional stories to explain the changes. More recently, researchers have discovered the natural causes behind the phenomenon.

► **DISCUSS** with your child some cycles in nature and the different ways we depend on cycles.

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

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|----------------------|------------------|---|
| proclamation | <i>noun</i> | an official announcement of something |
| commanded | <i>verb</i> | gave orders |
| temperate | <i>adjective</i> | not too hot and not too cold |
| prevailing | <i>adjective</i> | currently existing |
| ushers | <i>verb</i> | leads somewhere |
| ebb | <i>noun</i> | withdraw or move back |
| mature | <i>verb</i> | to fully develop |
| tender | <i>adjective</i> | easy to break or damage; sensitive |
| hydroelectric | <i>adjective</i> | relating to the generation of electricity by moving water |
| basins | <i>noun</i> | depressions in the Earth’s surface that holds water |
| turbines | <i>noun</i> | machines that are activated by the movement of water, steam, or air |
| reliable | <i>adjective</i> | characterized by regularity; consistent |

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. absorbent | 8. ignorant | 15. persistent |
| 2. aerial | 9. international | 16. professional |
| 3. artificial | 10. material | 17. radiant |
| 4. attendant | 11. obedient | 18. renewal |
| 5. dependent | 12. occupant | 19. tolerant |
| 6. essential | 13. partial | 20. verbal |
| 7. horizontal | 14. patient | |

Challenge

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| 1. celestial | 2. centennial | 3. inhabitant |
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Language Arts

Writing: Your child will learn about writing an informational text and how to plan his or her writing by using a TIDE graphic organizer.

Grammar: Your child will learn about different capitalization rules, including proper nouns, dates, addresses, abbreviations, and book titles.

► **ASK** your child to describe the different sections of the TIDE graphic organizer, and then explain why it is a helpful tool.