



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

Big Idea: How can we prepare for weather?

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

This week's reading selection: *Hot Enough to Fry an Egg*

Summary: This selection features facts about various U.S. and world deserts, including the Mojave, Sonoran, Sahara, and Gobi. Maps and diagrams show desert locations and illustrate why these areas have such dry climates.

Essential Questions: How can weather affect large areas of the country? What are the usual weather conditions where you live?

► **DISCUSS** with your child what life must be like for animals living in a desert. How do they survive with so little food and water?

Vocabulary

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

Antarctic	<i>adjective</i>	relating to the South Pole or surrounding regions
continent	<i>noun</i>	one of the seven large land areas on Earth
elevation	<i>noun</i>	height above sea level
evaporate	<i>verb</i>	change from a liquid or solid into a gas
extinct	<i>adjective</i>	no longer active or burning
mirage	<i>noun</i>	an illusion in which a distant object is not really there
plateaus	<i>noun</i>	areas of flat land higher than the surrounding country
polar	<i>adjective</i>	having to do with the North or South Pole
sandwiched	<i>verb</i>	fit or squeezed in tightly
severe	<i>adjective</i>	harsh, or causing hardship or discomfort
tundra	<i>noun</i>	flat, treeless land of permanently frozen soil
vapor	<i>noun</i>	small particles of mist, steam, or smoke that can be seen in the air

► **USE** these words while discussing the reading selection.

Spelling

Focus: Your child will spell words with the / \overline{oo} / sound, homographs, and multiple-meaning words.

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|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1. clue | 6. yard | 11. chew |
| 2. tuna | 7. noodle | 12. choose |
| 3. fine | 8. cool | 13. permit |
| 4. mind | 9. rude | 14. waves |
| 5. root | 10. file | 15. letter |

Challenge

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|------------|---------|----------|
| 1. patient | 2. duet | 3. jewel |
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► **HAVE** your child practice spelling these words.

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will draft, revise, edit, and publish an informative/explanatory piece. He or she will then do prewriting for another informative/explanatory piece about a historical topic.

Grammar: Your child will also be learning about pronouns (*he, she, they, it, him, her, them*).

► **ASK** your child to write several sentences about people he or she knows. Then work with him or her to replace nouns in the sentences with pronouns.