



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

**Big Idea:** How do animals interact with their environments?

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

**This week's reading selection:** *A Saguaro's Story*

**Summary:** A drought creates a crisis for a saguaro cactus and its animal inhabitants in this folktale. Will the flora and fauna of this harsh environment find a way to survive?

**Essential Questions:** How do plants and animals depend on each other? How can environmental changes impact animals and their habitats?

► **DISCUSS** with your child how plants and animals might be able to survive in a desert habitat.

## Vocabulary

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

<b>bold</b>	<i>adjective</i>	having courage
<b>challenge</b>	<i>verb</i>	to invite or call to take part in a struggle or contest
<b>collapsed</b>	<i>verb</i>	failed or broke down completely or suddenly
<b>cooperate</b>	<i>verb</i>	to work with others for a common purpose
<b>crisis</b>	<i>noun</i>	a condition or period of difficulty or danger
<b>devour</b>	<i>verb</i>	to eat up with great greed or vigor
<b>frantic</b>	<i>adjective</i>	wildly excited by worry, grief, fear, or anger
<b>nourish</b>	<i>verb</i>	to furnish with food or other substances necessary for life
<b>resided</b>	<i>verb</i>	made one's home permanently or for a time
<b>simple</b>	<i>adjective</i>	easily done, used, or understood
<b>stage</b>	<i>noun</i>	a step or period in a process
<b>support</b>	<i>verb</i>	to provide for

► **ADD** the vocabulary words to your conversations at home.

## Spelling

**Focus:** This week your child will spell words with the suffixes *-ful*, *-less*, *-ity*, and *-able*.

- |              |               |              |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. sleepless | 6. endless    | 11. wearable |
| 2. painful   | 7. sanity     | 12. activity |
| 3. fixable   | 8. wishful    | 13. careless |
| 4. rarity    | 9. notable    | 14. harmful  |
| 5. helpful   | 10. penniless | 15. likable  |

## Challenge

- |              |               |                |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. plentiful | 2. breathless | 3. electricity |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|

► **HAVE** your child practice spelling these words.

## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will draft, revise, edit, and publish an informative/explanatory text that compares and contrasts two places. He or she will then learn more about reference materials in preparation for writing a research report.

**Grammar:** Your child will also learn about abbreviations (*Mr.*, *Dr.*, *Ave.*, *DVD*).

► **ASK** your child to keep track of all the abbreviations he or she encounters this week. Discuss what each abbreviation stands for.