

Family-School Connection

Highlights of the Unit:

How do plants and animals live together?

Dear Family,

How do plants and animals live together? Why is it important for plants and animals to depend on each other? In this unit, students address these questions and others by reading informational texts. After learning from their reading, they write their own informational how-to articles.

READING

Students read informational texts to understand their elements. They also read realistic fiction and persuasive text about plant and animal relationships. They learn about synonyms and antonyms, context clues, figurative language, and parts of speech. They also learn about the **VC/V**, **V/CV**, and **VCe** syllable patterns, **or**, **ore**, **oar** *r*-controlled vowels, compound words, and contractions.

This unit's learning and work will help your child with the following **skills**:

- ★ Identifying main ideas and details
- ★ Analyzing text structure
- ★ Synthesizing information
- ★ Analyzing illustrations
- ★ Comparing and contrasting texts
- ★ Explaining author's purpose

Ways to Help Your Child: When you talk about this unit's activities, the following topics and questions may help start the conversation.

- ★ What is your favorite part so far in *Patterns in Nature*?
- ★ Which of the words you learned do you find the most interesting? Why?

WRITING

In this unit, students consider how to develop a detailed and interesting personal narrative. They learn about singular and plural nouns, irregular plural nouns, singular and plural possessive nouns, and types of verbs.

This unit's learning and work will help your child with the following **skills**:

- ★ Developing the topic and structure for a how-to article
- ★ Developing main idea and relevant details
- ★ Organizing steps and sequence
- ★ Developing illustrations
- ★ Revising, editing, and publishing writing

Ways to Help Your Child: The following topics and questions may help start a conversation.

- ★ What is the topic of your how-to article?
- ★ What is your favorite illustration you made for your how-to? Why?

PROJECT-BASED INQUIRY

In this unit's Project-Based Inquiry, students research a beneficial relationship between a plant and an animal. They compose a scrapbook on this relationship.

Thank you for your continuing support!