

Family-School Connection

Highlights of the Unit:

How do communities change over time?

Dear Family,

How do communities change over time? How can one person improve a community? In this unit, students address these questions and others by reading biographies. They learn about narrative nonfiction and dramas. From these readings, they develop opinions and learn to write opinion essays.

READING

Students read biographies about people who have changed their communities. They also learn about the **ir, er, ur, ear** *r*-controlled vowels, the **VCCCV** syllable pattern, the **-able, ible, -ation** Latin suffixes, and homographs and homophones.

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

- ★ Analyzing text structure
- ★ Identifying main ideas and key details
- ★ Explaining author's purpose and distinguishing viewpoint
- ★ Identifying elements of a drama

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

- ★ Which reading selection have you enjoyed most? Why?
- ★ Ask your child to read an article. Ask him or her to state an opinion about the reading.

WRITING

In this unit, students consider how to develop opinion essays. They learn about possessive pronouns, contractions, prepositions, prepositional phrases, adjectives, articles, and adverbs.

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

- ★ Developing a topic, point of view, and opinion
- ★ Distinguishing between facts and opinions
- ★ Developing reasons and supporting facts
- ★ Developing a conclusion

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

- ★ What topic did you choose for your opinion essay?
- ★ How do you support your opinion in your writing?

PROJECT-BASED INQUIRY

In this unit's Project-Based Inquiry, students research how communities change over time. Students create an informational poster about how part of a city or town has changed.

Thank you for your continuing support!