

# Inventors at Work

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about inventors, with a focus on the informational text genre. We will read texts and view videos about how people can create amazing things through innovation, perseverance, and the desire to solve problems. Children will also write a personal narrative.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is informational text. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that

- spark your child's curiosity
- tie to the module topic
- show a particular point of view
- have a clear text structure

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *excel*, *illustrious*, *revere*, and *transcend* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: What do you **excel** at? Is there a person you **revere**? Who?

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with roots *phon*, *photo*, *vis*, *aud*, *auto*, *bio* and prefixes *ex-*, *e-*, *ir-*, *il-* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# What a Story

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about subgenres of fiction, with a focus on different ways to tell a great story. We will read texts and view videos about how writers share compelling stories in literature of many types. Children will write a narrative about a character on a journey.

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### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is fiction. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that

- spark your child's sense of curiosity and wonder
- tie to the module topic
- tell a compelling story, perhaps in an unfamiliar way
- allow your child to explore his or her interests—or discover new ones

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *prose*, *dialogue*, *climax*, and *foreword* in conversation. Use prompts like these: What was the **climax** of your weekend? Describe what **dialogue** looks like in print.

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with the prefixes *re-* and *fore-* and the suffixes *-ful* and *-ness* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# Natural Disasters

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about natural disasters, with a focus on the informational text genre. We will read texts and view videos about how Earth's movements, features, and weather can cause natural disasters. Children will also write an editorial about safety for the school paper.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is informational text. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that

- spark your child's curiosity
- tie to the module topic
- explore interesting scientific facts and ideas
- have unique formats, graphic features, and visual elements

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *notable*, *spontaneous*, *tremor*, and *hazard* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: What **hazards** do you avoid? Describe the last **spontaneous** thing you did.

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with roots *graph*, *gram*, *geo*, *rupt*, *fer*; suffixes *-logy/-logist*; and prefixes *inter-*, *com-/con-/cor-* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about westward expansion, with a focus on the informational text genre. We will read texts and view videos about how workers and families had varied experiences during the time of westward expansion. Children will also write an informational article.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is informational text. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that

- spark your child's curiosity
- tie to the module topic
- express a clear central idea
- have a clear text structure (i.e., problem/solution, sequence, cause-and-effect)

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *native*, *epic*, *midland*, and *victory* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: You are a **native** of \_\_\_\_\_. When have you experienced a **victory**?

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with prefixes *mid-*, *trans-*, *mis-/mal-* and suffixes *-al*, *-ic*, *-ous/-ious*, *-able/-ible* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# Project Earth

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about our planet, with a focus on the persuasive text genre. We will read texts and view videos about different things people do to care for the Earth and its living things. Children will write a persuasive letter about an environmental issue that is important to them.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is persuasive text. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts:

- That spark your child's curiosity.
- That tie to the module topic.
- In which an author presents evidence for or against something.
- In which the author asks readers to take action about an issue.

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *contaminate*, *benevolent*, *imperial*, *endangered* in conversation with your child. Use prompts like these: What is the opposite of **contaminate**? Describe a **benevolent** person.

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Looks for words with the Latin root *bene* and the suffixes *-ive* and *-ure* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about different art forms, with a focus on the biography genre. We will read texts and view videos about how different art forms impact people in different ways. Children will also write a biographical sketch about an artist for a school arts festival.

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### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is biography. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that

- spark your child's curiosity
- tie to the module topic
- present interesting ideas and points of view
- help readers connect to historical events

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *classic*, *tribute*, *striking*, and *provoking* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: What is a fun **classic** game? Describe an animal you think is **striking**.

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with the roots *struct*, *port*, *duc/duct*; prefixes *de-*, *super-*, *micro-*; and suffixes *-ion*, *-ism*, *-ant/-ent* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# Above, Below, and Beyond

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about exploration, with a focus on the autobiography genre. We will read texts and view videos about important discoveries people have made on land, in the oceans, and in space. Children will also write an instructional science article for an imaginary class book.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is autobiography. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that

- spark your child's curiosity
- tie to the module topic
- provide first-person accounts of interesting discoveries
- describe a clear sequence of events and have unique visuals

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *expedition*, *incredible*, *progress*, and *chronology* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: Where would you like to go on an **expedition**? Describe something **incredible** in nature.

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with the roots *tract*, *chrono*, *gress*, *ped*, *dent*, *terr* and prefixes *mega-*, *sub-*, *pro-*, *anti-* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# A New Home

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about the experience of moving to a new country, with a focus on the poetry genre. We will read texts and view videos about how people adapt to new experiences to make a home in a new place. Children will also write a narrative poem.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is poetry. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that

- spark your child's curiosity
- tie to the module topic
- model themes or lessons that might be familiar to your child
- include interesting text formats or graphic features

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *nomadic*, *voice*, *monologue*, and *temporary* in daily conversation with your child. Use prompts like: What makes something **temporary**? Describe a **monologue**.

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with prefixes *mono-* and *semi-* and Latin root *ject* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.



# Unexpected, Unexplained

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about mysterious events, with a focus on the mystery genre. We will read texts and view videos about why people are drawn to mysteries and driven to solve them. Children will also write a persuasive speech for an imaginary class debate.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is mystery. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that

- spark your child's curiosity
- tie to the module topic
- describe interesting characters and events
- present a conflict and show how it is resolved

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *suspense*, *falsify*, *factor*, and *effect* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: What **factors** can change your mood? Is **suspense** exciting? Why?

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with the roots *fac*, *fec*, *fy* and the suffixes *-y*, *-ion*, *-ic*, *-less*, *-ous/-ious*, *-al*, *-ant*, *-ment* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# The Lives of Animals

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about the lives of animals, with a focus on the informational text genre. We will read texts and view videos about the amazing characteristics and abilities of animals. Children will also write an informational essay.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is informational text. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that

- spark your child's curiosity
- tie to the module topic
- express a clear central idea
- include text and graphic features
- have a particular tone
- use precise and descriptive words

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *tension*, *antisocial*, *bond*, and *relationship* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: With whom do you feel a strong **bond**? When do you feel **tension**?

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with prefixes *in-*, *anti-*, and *pre-* and Latin root *bene* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.