



Family Newsletter for Unit 1

Our Land and Early History

Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn:

- about the landforms, natural resources, and regions of the United States
- about the American Indians and how the Europeans explored and settled North America

Here are some ways that you can help your child learn:

Talk About It

Chapter 1: United States Geography

Dressing for the weather Talk with your child about how he or she dresses differently depending on the weather. For example, if it is very warm outside, your child might wear a short-sleeved shirt and shorts. If it is very cold, he or she will probably wear a coat and a hat. Discuss how climate affects how people live in different regions.

Chapter 2: Exploration and Settlement

Location, location, location When Europeans built settlements in North America, they had to find good places to live and work. What things would people need to live in a certain area? Discuss what landforms and natural resources would help make a settlement successful.

Make It

A map Explore parts of your community that may be unfamiliar to your child, such as a new park or another neighborhood. Examine the details of the unfamiliar area. Encourage your child to make a map of the area and draw objects and landforms on the map.

Read to Learn More About It

The Earliest Americans, by Helen Roney Sattler. A description of the most widely accepted theories on who the first Americans were.

The Jamestown Colony, by Gail Sakurai. This account of the first permanent English settlement in North America includes disasters and challenges the colonists faced.

Who Really Discovered America? by Stephen Krensky. Examines the many sides of the controversy over who really “discovered” America.



Technology

Check out
www.eduplace.com/parents/hmss05/
for more information.