



Family Newsletter for Unit 4

Transforming the Nation

Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn:

- the factors that led people to settle in the West and in the Great Plains
- how businesses and immigrants helped the country grow and change

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

Talk About It

Chapter 7: Changes on the Plains

Long distances Today's transportation can make long distances seem short. Discuss any long-distance trips you have taken or would like to take together. What transportation is available to get there? What is considered a "long" trip?

Chapter 8: Big Business and Big Cities

Entrepreneurship Many immigrants start their own businesses when they get to the United States. Talk about local businesses and their owners, especially those owned by immigrants. What goods or services do they provide?

Make It

Unplugged Select one important appliance or form of technology that you and your family use every day. Ask your child or your family to do without that technology for one hour. Have your child record your family members' responses about not using it.

Read to Learn More About It

Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie, by Kristiana Gregory. A young pioneer girl relates her family's experiences during their rigorous journey west.

Full Steam Ahead: The Race to Build a Transcontinental Railroad, by Rhoda Blumberg. The author recounts the incredible story of what has been called one of the country's most ambitious constructions.

Sodbuster, by David W. Toht. The hardships and good times of pioneer life are expressed in this collection of diary excerpts, songs, games, recipes, and medicinal remedies.



Technology

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