



# Family Newsletter for Unit 1

## Florida's Land and First People

### Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn:

- the relative location of Florida and its major geographical characteristics
- the history of the earliest people to inhabit Florida and how they lived

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

### Talk About It

Chapter 1: The Geography of Florida

**Sunshine state** Talk with your child about characteristics of Florida's climate, such as the abundant rainfall and the warm temperatures. Discuss ways in which climate might have influenced the lifestyles of Floridians in the past and how it influences them today.

Chapter 2: The First Floridians

**Farmers and fishers** Early American Indians in Florida learned to farm and fish to maintain a food supply. Discuss how Florida's crops and fish continue today to help feed people in Florida and in other places.

### Make It

**A travel brochure** Visitors and Floridians alike have fun in the state's different regions. The state has theme parks, beaches, wetlands, baseball training camps, and even a space program. Working together, design a travel brochure that highlights Florida's attractions.

### Read to Learn More About It

*Joel: Growing Up a Farm Man*, by Patricia Demuth. An exploration of life on an Illinois farm through the eyes of thirteen-year-old Joel.

*The Talking Earth*, by Jean Craighead George. Billie Wind ventures out alone into the Florida Everglades to test the legends of her Indian ancestors and learns the importance of listening to the Earth's vital messages.

*Weather Forecasting*, by Gail Gibbons. Weather forecasters use sophisticated equipment to track constant changes in the weather.



### Technology

Check out  
[www.eduplace.com/parents/hmss05/](http://www.eduplace.com/parents/hmss05/)  
for more information.