



Family Newsletter for Unit 1

Our Land and First People

Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn:

- the location, features, and natural resources of the United States
- about the first Americans and how the geography of the Americas influenced their lives

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

Talk About It

Chapter 1: America's Land

Scarce food When something is scarce, people may need to use or take less than they want. For example, six people would like to each have a full glass of orange juice. However, there are only enough oranges for three people to have a full glass. Talk with your child about how the scarcity of fruit affects the amount of juice each person gets.

Chapter 2: The First Americans

Water in the right place There is a lack of rain in the southwestern United States, so American Indians had to find ways to get water to their crops. What are some ways water can be moved without electricity? How do these ways compare with what the American Indians did?

Make It

Build a home American Indians in different parts of North America used different materials to build their homes. Think about the natural resources in your community, such as rocks, trees, dirt, or clay, that you could use to build a place to live. Then design a home you could build using one or all of these materials.

Read to Learn More About It

Ahyoka and the Talking Leaves, by Peter and Connie Roop. Ahyoka helps her father Sequoyah create the Cherokee alphabet.

The Aztecs, by Tim Wood. Colorful illustrations and see-through cut-away diagrams illustrate and explain all aspects of Aztec culture and history.

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



Technology

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