Dear Family,

Our class is starting a unit called Writing a Research Report. First, students will read and discuss a published model, “An Octopus Is Amazing,” and a student model about amazing ways frogs survive. These models will help students learn the characteristics of a well-written research report. Then students will follow the writing process to write their own research reports. They will find source material for their topic, gather facts about the topic, take notes, and summarize important points. They will also revise sentences to improve their writing. Here are some ways for you to help your child develop these skills.

Homework

Have your child complete the exercise below and return it to his or her teacher on ____________.

Help your child practice exploring a topic. Have your child draw a chart like the one shown on a separate piece of paper. Ask your child what he or she knows about ocean fish. Have your child write those things under What I Know. Then discuss with your child things he or she would like to learn about ocean fish. Have your child write those things under What I Want to Learn. Finally, have your child list where he or she might look for answers under Possible Sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What I know</th>
<th>What I Want to Learn</th>
<th>Possible Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities

Getting to Know You Have your child tell you what his or her favorite wild animal is. Together, try to think of several different ways in which you could learn about the animal, such as visiting the zoo, checking the library, or using the Internet.

Where I Grew Up Help your child learn his or her family history. Have your child ask you questions about the city and neighborhood where you grew up. Have your child draw a picture to show a part of the city or neighborhood you have described and write a caption for the picture.

Reading Tip

Here are some books your child might enjoy.

Penguins by Gail Gibbons
Saguaro Cactus by Conrad Jo Storad