Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn:

• about early French exploration of Illinois and how the fur trade helped shape French settlement

• how conflicts among American Indians, the French, and the British, including the American Revolutionary War affected Illinois

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

Talk About It

Chapter 2: Exploring Illinois

Early European exploration Today, people often travel to Illinois for vacation or business. Discuss how these reasons are different from why the early Europeans explored and colonized Illinois.

Chapter 3: Conflict in Illinois

Wars and revolution Different American Indian groups formed alliances with the French or the English. Discuss how these alliances and Europe’s attempts to control America led to the American Revolution.

Make It

A newsletter Discuss the advantages of the area of Illinois in which you live. Ask your child to write a short newsletter highlighting what your family likes about living there.

Read to Learn More About It

Despite All Obstacles: La Salle and the Conquest of the Mississippi (Great Explorers), by Joan Elizabeth Goodman, Tom McNeely. Traces the journeys of La Salle with vivid watercolors and a fold-out expedition map.

Struggle for a Continent: The French and Indian Wars 1689-1763 (The American Story), by Betsy Maestro, Giulio Maestro. Tells the story about how the British and French fought over North America for over 70 years.

Technology

Check out www.eduplace.com/ssf for more information.