Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn:

• the relative location of New York and its major geographical characteristics

• the history of the earliest people to inhabit New York and how they lived

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

Talk About It

Chapter 1: New York’s Geography

Empire State  Talk with your child about the different types of landforms that can be found in New York State, such as mountains, plateaus, and coastal plains. Discuss the ways that these landforms might have affected the lifestyles of New Yorkers in the past and how they influence activities today.

Chapter 2: New York’s First People

American Indians  Early American Indians in New York maintained a food supply by hunting, fishing, and gathering plants. About 2,000 years ago, Woodland Indians learned to plant and grow crops. Talk about how crops grown in New York today continue to help feed people in New York and across the country.

Make It

A Shelter  The Algonquians of New York lived in homes made of hides and reeds called wigwams. Later, the Haudenosaunee people lived in long, narrow buildings called longhouses. Working together, create a model of a wigwam or longhouse.

Read to Learn More About It

An Algonquian Year: The Year According to the Full Moon, by Michael McCurdy. Follow the important path the moon made in Algonquian lives in this beautifully illustrated book.

Archaeology for Kids: Uncovering the Mysteries of Our Past, by Richard Panchyk. Explore the wonderful world of archaeology first-hand by doing one or more of twenty-five projects, such as making a surface survey of a site and counting rings to estimate the age of a tree.

The Iroquois: The Six Nations Confederacy, by Mary Englar. An introduction to the history and culture of the powerful American Indian group that flourished in the region that is now New York State and Ontario, Canada.

Technology

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