Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn:

• how the land, climate, and resources of New York State affect how people live and work there

• the United States is a democracy in which the people govern themselves according to the Constitution

• the United States has ties to its neighbors in Canada to the north, and with Mexico and the Caribbean islands to the south

Read to Learn More About It

*The New Big Book of America,* by Todd J. Davis and Marc E. Frey. Maps and photographs illustrate this guide to the geography, history, and culture of the fifty states.

*The White House: An Illustrated History,* by Catherine O’Neill Grace. More than two hundred photographs show the people and events that have shaped the history of the most famous building in the United States.

*A Picnic in October,* by Eve Bunting. Every year, this Italian American family who lives in New York City celebrates the birthday of the Statue of Liberty with a picnic.

Talk About It

Chapter 9: Exploring the East

**Our Varied Landscape** New York State has a variety of landforms, rivers, and lakes. Talk with your child about the terrain where you live and how it is different from other places in the state.

Chapter 10: Here in the Americas

**Democracy at Home** Our federal government and the government of the state of New York are both representative democracies, in which the leaders are chosen by the people. Discuss the concept of democracy and talk about the ways that your family can participate in local and national government.

Make It

**Important Resources** With your child make a log of the natural resources your family uses in one week. At the end of the week, help your child categorize each resource as renewable or nonrenewable. Then talk about ways your family helps conserve nonrenewable resources.