

Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our next unit of study, “Water: Fact and Fiction.”

Are you ready for the eighth unit in our Benchmark Advance program? We sure are, and it appears that we may be nearing the end of the program! As with the previous units, I am providing suggested activities you and your child can do together at home to continue the learning we are doing in class.

The selections in this unit will be all about water and what it means to people in different societies. Students will explore a Greek myth and read an interview with a landscaper, a tall tale, and an informational text.

This fascinating unit will make you think twice about what water means to people, from its role in ancient myths and legends to the way it provides a valuable and necessary resource for all of us.

As always, should you have any questions about our reading program or about your child’s progress, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Water: Fact and Fiction

In this unit, we'll read selections about water and its impact on our lives. We will think in depth about the question "What does water mean to people and the societies they live in?" Here are some activities designed to continue the conversation we started in school about water in legends and fictional tales, as well as the hard facts about this important resource.

Topic Connection

Like an Animal?

All living things need water. We know how plants and animals use water, but how do humans use water in ways that are unique among other living things? Ask your child to take a walk around your home and list as many ways as possible that water is used. Have him or her go into every room and list every possibility. Then ask your child to place a check mark next to the ways your family uses water that other living things also use water. Discuss how water use by humans is similar to and different from water use by other living things.

Vocabulary Connection

Sentence Starters

In school, your child is learning new words related to water and its impact on society. Help your child put these words to use. Choose five of the following words and use them in sentence starters that your child can complete: **distribute, myriads, obliterated, problematic, pursuit, receded, scarce, temporary, tranquil, and vast**. To make it into a game with a maximum of 10 possible points, give your child one point for every sentence that uses the word correctly, and two points for every sentence about water that uses the word correctly.

Comprehension Connection

Water Venn Diagram

Students are analyzing the many ways that water can impact our society, from droughts to floods. Ask your child to make a Venn diagram that compares the effects of droughts and floods on society. Remind your child to list the ways that individuals and families are affected, as well as the way companies or governments might be affected.

Word Study Connections

Water Scarcity

While reading fiction and nonfiction texts about water, students learned about the effects of scarce water supplies. Focus on the word *scarce* with your child, and list ways that water scarcity would affect your family and its activities throughout a year. Think about how you use water in different seasons, and think about what would happen if your water supplies were *scarce*.