Bluebonnet Learning
K–5 Reading Language Arts

Welcome!

Grade 1, Unit 4
Astronomy: Space Exploration

Dear Family Member,

In this unit, students will be introduced to the solar system.

What's the story?
Students will learn about the planet they live on, **Earth**, and how the **sun, stars, moon**, and **other planets** relate to it.

What will my student learn?
Students will explore the **sun** and learn about the basics of **astronomy**. They will also have the opportunity to learn about the history of **space exploration** as they read about **NASA** and the **missions to the moon**.

Students will have many chances to **write**. They will focus on **informational writing** by collecting information and taking notes with their classmates about the planets. They will also do some **opinion writing** in their journals, where they will write opinion statements and give reasons to **support their thinking**.

Conversation starters
Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What does the word astronomy mean?
   Follow up: What are some things that an astronomer might study?
2. What are the two different ways the earth moves? (It orbits around the sun; it spins on its axis.)
   Follow up: Pretend I am the sun; show me how the earth moves around the sun. Can you tell me what happens when the earth moves around the sun?
3. Why does it look like the stars are blinking when we see them in the sky?
   Follow up: Now that you have been learning more about stars, how would you describe them?
4. How is the moon different from the earth?
   Follow up: What have you learned about the moon's phases?
5. Tell me what it was like for the first astronauts to visit the moon.
   Follow up: What did they see? How do you think they felt?
6. How many planets are in our solar system?
   Follow up: Can you name some of them? Do you remember what they are known for? (smallest, brightest, etc.)
7. Would you rather be an astronaut or an astronomer?
   Follow up: Why?