



Tips for Families

Level 2 Module 2 | *The American West*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 2 module 2. Read on to learn more—and for ideas about how you can support learning outside of school.

What topic is my student studying?

Arts & Letters students build knowledge of important topics in history, science, and literature. They build their vocabulary and background knowledge so that they are ready to learn more. In level 2 module 2, *The American West*, students explore the people, animals, and plants of the West. They answer the module's Essential Question: How has life in the American West changed over time?

Support your student by asking questions like these about the topic:

- When I say the word *tradition*, what do you think of?
- What have you learned about the American West?

What is my student reading?

Arts & Letters students read books, poems, and articles. They study art. They watch knowledge-building videos. Together, these resources build students' knowledge and reading skills. In level 2 module 2, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *Buffalo Bird Girl: A Hidatsa Story*, S. D. Nelson
- *Where the Buffalo Roam: Bison in America*, Kate Waters
- *The Buffalo Are Back*, Jean Craighead George and Wendell Minor
- *Powwow Day*, Traci Sorell and Madelyn Goodnight

Ask *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, and *why* as you read with your student. Encourage your student to share their own questions about what they read.

What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing stories, opinion paragraphs, and informative paragraphs. Modules typically focus on one writing type. In *The American West*, students plan, organize, and write informative paragraphs about how the West has changed over time.

Support your student's writing by encouraging them to write at home. Invite your student to start a list of new information learned from the books they read.



What vocabulary is my student learning?

The more vocabulary students know, the more successfully they can read, write, and speak.

In this module, your student will study and use these words:

- bison
- challenge
- community
- government
- homestead
- interdependent
- nation
- opportunity
- prairie
- preserve
- settler
- tradition

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. For example, use the words *opportunity* and *challenge* when helping your student make choices.

What else can we do to continue learning outside of school?

If you speak a language other than English, speak and read with your student in your home language. This practice can help them develop strong literacy skills.

Research a Native American nation from your region of the country or one that is of interest to your student.

Discuss traditions in your family or community.

