Bluebonnet Learning
K–5 Reading Language Arts

Welcome!

Grade 4, Unit 9
Innovation and Industry in Energy

Dear Family Member,

In this unit, students will learn about energy in the United States.

What's the story?

Students will follow the story of **energy development** in the United States, starting with the **oil boom** in Beaumont, Texas, and ending with **today's energy needs**. They will also **conduct research**, putting themselves in the shoes of **future energy innovators**.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn about **innovators** of the **past** and **present**. Students will develop **analytical reading skills** as they examine the challenges of early energy innovators. Throughout the unit, they will conduct **research** using locally approved resources to **identify and gather information** from a variety of sources. Students will engage in a **writing process** to produce **argumentative essays** and **multimodal presentations**. The focus of this cumulative task will be to argue which is more important to the diversity of the Texas energy industry: the variety of natural resources Texas has available or innovating to harness the potential of those resources.

Conversation starters

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

1. What uses energy in our home?
   Follow up: What kind of energy is used?
2. Where does oil come from?
   Follow up: How is oil removed from the earth?
3. Have you ever had to make something to solve a problem?
   Follow up: What did you create? What did you learn from that experience?
4. Do you think it is important to have a variety of different ways of generating energy?
   Follow up: Do you think how we will use energy in the future will be different from today? How?