

Tips for Families

Kindergarten Module 3 | *America, Then and Now*

We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ kindergarten module 3. 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 kindergarten module 3, *America, Then and Now*, students explore innovations in communities, transportation, and communication. They answer the module's Essential Question: How has innovation changed life in America over time?

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

- How have you changed over time?
- What do you know about different types of transportation?
- What kind of transportation would you like to invent for our family to use?

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 kindergarten module 3, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *The Little House*, Virginia Lee Burton
- *Transportation Then and Now*, Nadia Higgins
- *Wood, Wire, Wings: Emma Lilian Todd Invents an Airplane*, Kirsten W. Larson and Tracy Subisak
- *Communication Then and Now*, Nadia Higgins
- *Take a Picture of Me, James VanDerZee!*, Andrea J. Loney and Keith Mallett
- *Now and Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin*, Gene Barretta

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Invite your student to ask 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 *America, Then and Now*, students plan, organize, and write informative paragraphs about innovation.

Support your student's writing by encouraging them to write at home. Together, list the various items in your student's home that have changed over time (e.g., phone, radio, television).

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:

- change
- communication
- create
- failure
- future
- innovation
- invent
- past
- photograph
- present
- success
- tinker
- transportation

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. Make a list of predictions for the future.

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.

Encourage your student to ask questions about technology in their home. Discuss with your student how various technologies have changed over time.

Discuss with your student how their community has changed over time. Interview a longtime community member and ask questions about what the community was like in the past.