

Tips for Families

Level 1 Module 2 | *Creature Features*

We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 1 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 1 module 2, *Creature Features*, students learn about animals and the scientists who study them. They answer the module's Essential Question: What do people learn by studying animals?

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

- What is your favorite animal? Why is this your favorite animal?
- Why is studying animals interesting?

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 1 module 2, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *Seven Blind Mice*, Ed Young
- *What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?*, Steve Jenkins and Robin Page
- *Dear Treefrog*, Joyce Sidman and Diana Sudyka
- *Feathers: Not Just for Flying*, Melissa Stewart and Sarah S. Brannen
- *Me...Jane*, Patrick McDonnell
- *Buzzing with Questions: The Inquisitive Mind of Charles Henry Turner*, Janice N. Harrington and Theodore Taylor III

Search together online or at the library for more information about animals, scientists, or another topic of interest.

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 *Creature Features*, students conduct research to write informative paragraphs about animals.

Support your student's writing by encouraging them to write at home. Encourage your student to observe nature and keep notes of their observations in a journal. Invite your student to read aloud their writing.

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:

- camouflage
- creature
- discover
- environment
- feature
- habitat
- observe
- predator
- prey
- protect
- scientist
- search
- study
- surroundings
- survive
- unique

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. While reading, talk about words that describe animals and their features.

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.

Visit a local zoo or pet store with your student. Observe animals that use their features to move, eat, or hide.

Invite your student to select an animal to research. Visit the library or look online to learn how this animal uses its features to survive.

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