

Tips for Families

Level 5 Module 1 | *Handed Down*

We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 5 module 1. 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 5 module 1, *Handed Down*, students learn about two Native American nations, the Nez Perce and the Ojibwe, by exploring their shared beliefs, traditions, language, and ways of life. They answer the module's Essential Question: How do communities sustain their cultures?

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

- How would you describe your community?
- What are some of the beliefs, traditions, and ways of life in your community?

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 literacy, including their understanding of different text genres. In level 5 module 1, students read and learn from this video, speech, and book:

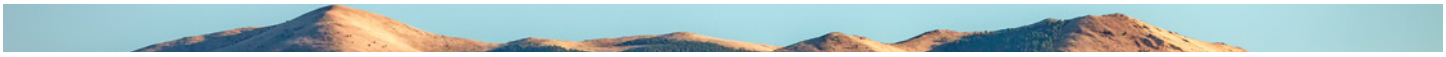
- "Coyote and the Monster," as told by J. R. Spencer
- excerpt from "Lincoln Hall Speech," Chief Joseph
- *The Birchbark House*, Louise Erdrich

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home.

What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing narratives, opinion essays, and informative essays. Each module focuses on one type of writing. In *Handed Down*, students plan, organize, and write informative paragraphs and essays to share knowledge of the Nez Perce and Ojibwe cultures.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Engage in shared writing with your student by taking turns writing about a different tradition or belief from your family or community.



What vocabulary is my student learning?

Learning more words enables students to read, write, and speak at higher levels and about different topics.

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

- *aadizookaan* (a traditional story, in Ojibwe)
- awareness
- culture
- generation
- homeland
- justice
- natural resource
- sacred
- sustain
- tradition
- value

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. For example, invite your student to share the meanings of the words in the list. If you speak a language other than English, discuss how to say the words in another language.

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

If you speak a language other than English, engage your student in speaking, reading, and writing in your home language. Engage in some of the literacy activities above in that language.

Support your student in creating a list of Native American nations. Prompt your student to research the culture of one nation that interests them and then to share their findings.

Take turns during a family meal to each share a value or tradition that is important to your family or community.

Todd Klassy Photography

