



Dear Family Member,

“Why learn about other places?” That is the big question we are exploring in this unit. To answer it, we are reading, writing, and talking about geography. Be a part of our exploration! With your student, read the New Words on the next page. Then follow these directions.

Directions:

1. Together, interview a family member or friend about an interesting place he or she has visited. Find out what the place was like and why it was interesting. Try to use some of the New Words in your interview.
2. Work together to write notes about your interview on the lines below. Try to include some of the New Words in your notes.
3. Choose an item such as photo, postcard, or other souvenir that represents the place your family member or friend described. Send the item or a picture of the item to school for your student to share with the class.

What We’re Reading

“How I Learned Geography”

by Uri Shulevitz

This story tells how a boy uses a map and his imagination to travel to faraway places and forget his troubles.

“Tortillas Like Africa”

by Gary Soto

In this poem, two boys see the shapes of different countries as they roll dough for tortillas.

“Extreme Earth”

by Beth Geiger

The hottest, tallest, coldest, most “extreme” places on Earth are discussed in this article.

“Photographing the World”

by Kristin Cozort

This photo-essay describes the work of Explorer Jimmy Chin, who photographs some of the most extreme places on Earth.

And more!



New Words

Weeks 1 and 2

border

globe

map

continent

hemisphere

range

country

imagine

suggest

equator

inhabitant

transport

Weeks 3 and 4

canyon

locate

plateau

elevation

ocean

region

feature

physical

surface

landform

plain

valley