

HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about westward expansion, with a focus on the informational text genre. We will read texts and view videos about how workers and families had varied experiences during the time of westward expansion. Children will also write an expository essay about what made the settlers, pioneers, and workers in the West successful.

BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is informational text. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that

- spark your child's curiosity
- tie to the module topic
- express a clear central idea
- have a clear text structure (i.e., problem/solution, sequence, cause-and-effect)

Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

The Big Idea Reinforce the topic words *native*, *epic*, *midland*, and *victory* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: You are a **native** of ____.
When have you experienced a **victory**?

What Does It Mean? Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

Word Hunt Look for words with prefixes *mid-*, *trans-*, *mis-/mal-* and suffixes *-al*, *-ic*, *-ous/-ious*, *-able/-ible* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.