

Unit 5 Newsletter

Informational Text, Research, and Inquiry Circles **Animals and Habitats**

The Focus in Reading and Writing

In our fifth unit we will continue working with informational text. In addition this unit introduces children to work more independently and collaborate in research and inquiry circles with their peers. The reading and writing becomes more deeply embedded in your child's daily practice.

Children will be responsible for conducting their own research through asking and answering questions on animals and habitats. Children will also be required to participate in a small group research project that focuses on a particular habitat and present it to their classmates.

Students will know how to:

- *Ask and answer questions to conduct research*
- *Utilize informational text features to conduct their research*
- *Gather information from multiple resources through note taking*
- *Collaborate with a peer and/or small group*

Writers' Workshop Focus

Children will be introduced to writing a research paper. Children will be responsible for producing a question that they can research in class. Children will be explicitly taught how to pull the *important (key)* details from an informational text in order to answer their question. They will also be a part of a collaborative group project.

How can you help your child?

Before reading an informational text with your child, create a "research question" that you hope to answer. Have your child write down their question and answer it in their own words.

Wrap-up!

In this unit students will be graded on their individual project, group project, as well as oral presentation.

Their individual research report will include:

- *The definition of the term habitat*
- *Answer(s) to their research question*
- *Use of two or more resources*

Students will also be a part of a team project in which they will research a specific habitat.

Their group research project will include the following:

- *The definition of their specific habitat*
- *An explanation of the special characteristics of the habitat such as the location/geography, the climate/weather, plants, and animals living in the habitat*
- *An oral presentation on their work*

There will be an opportunity for families to attend an event hosted by the students. More details will follow.