

Education Language Arts

Kindergarten: Module 4: Unit 3

Overview for Families

Notes to Teacher:

Making connections between home and school is vitally important in supporting students' learning. The following suggestions and materials represent some of the ways you can support these connections during this unit.

Suggestions:

- Copy the attached family letter and send it home with students after teaching Lesson 1 (this letter can be used as is or as a model). Consider having the letter translated for families whose first language is not English.
- Consider sending an additional letter to parents and school community members inviting them to join the class for a celebration of learning about trees at the end of this Unit.
- Help prepare students for the performance task by sending home a photocopy of the keyboard for students to highlight the letters of their name and practice using at home.
- Encourage students to share any at-home learning with the class. They can do this orally or by sharing writing, pictures, or artifacts. Example: Consider providing time for students to share how trees contribute to their neighborhoods or other countries where they have traveled or have family. Students can document with a camera or draw pictures (Emphasize that this should be done with an adult family member to ensure student safety).
- Create a display board featuring different ways trees contribute to the school, the students' neighborhoods and other countries. Provide labels for each way written in several different languages.
- Take pictures of students learning about the process of creating high-quality work and how to inspire others to appreciate trees. Post them in the room or hallway.
- Depending on the needs of your students and the expectations of your school community, consider assigning additional homework. Examples: open-ended activities that help students read, think, talk, write, and ask questions about the topic instead of those that simply test students on their content knowledge (see suggested activities in the family letter).
- If using EL Education's K–2 Reading Foundations Skills Block, consider sending home a copy of the Decodable Student Reader used each week and encourage families to have students read these texts aloud to them.

Family Letter

Dear Family,

During Unit 3 of this module, your student will be considering how to inspire others to appreciate trees. By the end of the module, students will be able to participate in a discussion about the module guiding question: “How and why are trees important to us and our communities?” I am writing today to explain what your student will be learning, describe the activities that will support this learning, and suggest how to support this learning at home. I hope that you will plan to join us at the end of this unit to celebrate all of your student’s learning!

What will your student be learning?

Students will begin to study the topic of how to inspire others to appreciate trees with a focus on how trees contribute to our communities. The learning will be focused on these ideas:

- Trees contribute many beautiful and useful things to our communities
- We can inspire others to appreciate trees through high-quality work

Students will also practice these reading foundation skills:

- Identify and write the sound for most consonants and vowels
- Segment (break apart) the individual sounds of spoken, one-syllable words, and blend them back together
- Decode (read) and encode (write) regularly spelled, one-syllable words

How will your student be learning?

Throughout the unit, your student will read, think, listen, talk, write, and ask questions about the topic of where and why people plant trees. Students will participate in these activities, among others, to build their literacy skills:

- Listening to a read-aloud about how planting trees made the world a better place for different communities using the text, *We Planted a Tree*
- Singing songs and reciting poems about trees in preparation for our Celebration of Learning
- Engaging in conversations with classmates
- Closely observing pictures of trees and/or trees in the community
- Creating, revising, and publishing writing and pencil sketches with watercolor that inspires others to appreciate trees

Enjoying and Appreciating Trees

What can you do to support your student's learning at home?

Here are a few activities that you can do at home with your student to support his or her learning:

- Help your student to practice typing his or her name on the computer at home or at the library in preparation for our culminating project.
- Ask your student to talk with you about this question: How do trees contribute to our community?
- Read books and sing songs about trees from home or the library.
- Encourage your student to read the weekly Decodable Student Reader or a letter book to you every night.
- Practice reading and spelling regularly spelled, one-syllable words with the middle vowel sound /a/. For example: “pat,” “chat,” and “tap.”

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss your student's learning.

Sincerely,
