

Grade 1: Module 2: Unit 2

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.
- 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 patterns that they have noticed in the day and night sky. Students can document by writing and drawing pictures.
- Add to the display board featuring pictures of the sun, moon, and stars. Provide a label for each picture written in several different languages.
- Post the sun and moon photographs from the unit in the classroom and hallway and label them with adjectives and prepositions discussed in the unit.
- Consider sending an additional letter to parents and co-workers requesting additional links to videos and photographs that display various patterns we observe in the sky. Examples could include videos of light and dark on earth that we refer to as day and night.
- 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.

Letter Home

Dear Family,

During Unit 2 of this module, your student will dive deeper into the study of the sun, moon, and stars as the class transitions from their reading of narrative texts to reading informational texts. By the end of the module, students will be able to participate in a discussion around the unit's guiding question: "What patterns can we observe in the sky?" 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 our deep study to celebrate all of your student's learning!

What will your student be learning?

Through a combination of read-alouds, hands on experiences, authentic writing tasks, and small group discussions, students take on the role of astronomers. The learning will be focused on these ideas:

- The sun and moon appear in different places in the sky during different times of day and year; stars are visible during the night, but not during the day.
- The pattern of motion of objects in the sky can be described and predicted.

Students will also practice these language skills:

- Using frequently occurring adjectives and prepositions

Students will also practice these speaking and listening skills:

- Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions while building on others' talk in conversations by responding to the comments of others through multiple exchanges

How will your student be learning?

Throughout the unit, your student will read, think, listen, talk, write, and ask questions about the topic of the patterns we see in the sky. Students will participate in these activities, among others, to build their literacy skills:

- Listening to read-alouds of informative texts about different patterns that we can observe in the sky
- Reciting poems about the sun, moon, and stars to learn about adjectives and prepositions
- Engaging in hands-on science demonstrations and activities to make the learning come to life
- Participating in Science Talks, using student-created notes as evidence for their discussion
- Participating in shared and independent writing practices to describe the appearance and location of the sun and moon

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:

- Ask your student to talk with you about this question: What patterns can we observe in the sky?
- Read books and sing songs that describe the patterns of the sun, moon, and stars.

The Sun, Moon, and Stars

- Work with your student to re-create science experiments from class at home and discuss what is happening and why.
- Encourage your student to read the weekly Decodable Student Reader or a letter book to you every night.

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

Sincerely,