

Grade 1: Module 2: 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.
- 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 what the sun and moon “see” in connection to their daily routines. Students can document by writing and drawing pictures.
- Create a display board featuring pictures of what the sun and moon “see” at various times of the day. Provide a label for each picture written in several different languages.
- Create a display board that matches temporal phrase (time of day) with a corresponding picture of the sun.
- 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 3 of this module, your student will continue to observe and describe the sun and moon at various positions in the sky throughout the day. By the end of the module, students will use their observations and their knowledge of the sun and moon to create narrative poem. 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?

In this unit, students will conclude a module study that has been ongoing for the past several weeks. This unit specifically focuses on describing both the sun and moon, their position in the sky, and what the sun and moon “see” during various time of day when they are visible in the sky. Your student's learning will focus on the following area:

- Writers can use their knowledge and observations of the sun and moon to write a narrative poem.

Students will also practice these writing skills:

- Writing a narrative poem that includes sequenced and detailed events, temporal words, and use of details to provide some sense of closure.

How will your student be learning?

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

- Closely observing and examining pictures of the sun and moon to generate noticings of what the sun and moon “see” in the sky
- Singing songs and engaging in movement routines about the sun and moon
- Engaging in role-play with peers to aid in the planning process of writing
- Participating in shared and independent writing practices to craft a narrative poem about the sun and moon
- Giving and receiving kind, specific, and helpful feedback regarding their narrative poems

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: How do writers use their knowledge and observations to write a story?
- Continue to read books and sing songs about the sun, moon, and stars from home or at the library.

The Sun, Moon, and Stars

- Observe the sun, moon, and stars at different times of the day and discuss what each “sees” at this time of day.
- 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,