

Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our next unit of study, “Conflicts That Shaped a Nation.”

As with the previous units, I am providing suggested activities you and your child can do together at home to build on the work we’re doing in class.

In this unit, we will read and compare texts about the American Revolution to understand how conflict shapes a society. We will be reading a variety of genres, including a diary entry, two letters, informational texts, and a historical fiction piece.

This unit will allow you and your child to examine important events of our country’s history and discuss how conflict shaped our nation into what it is today.

Once again, please don’t hesitate to contact me should you have any questions about our reading program or about your child’s progress.

Conflicts That Shaped a Nation

In this unit, we read about the American Revolution and the Civil War and how they shaped the nation forever. We think in depth about the question “How does conflict shape a society?” Here are some activities you can do at home that help address the impact of conflicts. It is bound to get you thinking about how various conflicts shape today’s society.

Topic Connection

Biographies of the Conflict

Students are reading texts about the American Revolution and the people who shaped our nation’s history. Have your child choose one historical figure from the time period of the American Revolution and write a short biography of that person’s life. Allow your child to do online research on age-appropriate websites to learn relevant facts about that person’s childhood or career.

Vocabulary Connection

Crossword Craze

In school, your child is learning new words related to the struggles of the nation. To help your child learn the meaning of some of these words, put together a simple crossword puzzle for your child using these words from the texts: **exasperation, adversaries, despised, rebellion,** and **opposed**. If you’d like, make another crossword puzzle that uses the remainder of the vocabulary words from the unit: **casualties, repercussions, precaution, resentful,** and **annihilated**.

Comprehension Connection

Letters from the Front

In this unit, students are reading about the young soldiers who contributed to the American Revolution. Have your child write a fictional letter from a soldier who is writing home about the things he or she misses the most. Remind your child to write about what a young person from the late 1700s would miss about home, not about their own lives in modern times. Read your child’s letter, and discuss with him or her how conflicts such as the American Revolution shape society and its citizens.

Word Study Connections

War Recruitment Posters

As students study the American Revolution era, focus on the word **circumstances** with your child. Have your child make a recruitment poster for each side of that war, and describe the **circumstances** that led each side to go into battle. When your child is done with the illustrated and annotated poster, ask him or her to compare the circumstances that each side faced during these difficult times in the nation’s history.