



Tips for Families

Level K Module 1 | *The Five Senses*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ kindergarten module 1. Read on to learn more—and for ideas about how you can support learning outside of school.

What topic is my student studying?

Arts & Letters students build knowledge of important topics in history, science, and literature. They build their vocabulary and background knowledge so that they are ready to learn more. In kindergarten module 1, *The Five Senses*, students explore how their senses help them experience the world. They answer the module’s Essential Question: How do people use their senses to experience the world?

Support your student by asking questions like these about the topic:

- What foods do you love to taste?
- What sounds do you hear where we live?

What is my student reading?

Arts & Letters students read books, poems, and articles. They study art. They watch knowledge-building videos. Together, these resources build students’ knowledge and reading skills. In kindergarten module 1, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *My Five Senses*, Aliko
- *Last Stop on Market Street*, Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson
- *Rap a Tap Tap: Here’s Bojangles—Think of That!*, Leo Dillon and Diane Dillon
- “Smelly” Kelly and His Super Senses: How James Kelly’s Nose Saved the New York City Subway, Beth Anderson and Jenn Harney
- *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*, Kevin Noble Maillard and Juana Martinez-Neal

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home.

What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing stories, opinion paragraphs, and informative paragraphs. Kindergarten module 1 serves as an introduction to writing. Students learn how drawing and writing help them communicate.

Support your student’s writing by encouraging them to write at home. Invite your student to draw and label or write about their favorite things to see, hear, smell, taste, and feel.



What vocabulary is my student learning?

The more vocabulary students know, the more successfully they can read, write, and speak.

In this module, your student will study and use these words:

- discover
- experience
- extraordinary
- hearing
- rhythm
- senses
- sight
- smell
- taste
- touch
- witness

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. Point out when your student uses these words. Name when your student uses their five senses.

What else can we do to continue learning outside of school?

If you speak a language other than English, speak and read with your student in your home language. This practice can help them develop strong literacy skills.

Play a guessing game using the five senses with your student. Cover your student's eyes and present your student with an item that they can hear, smell, or taste. Invite your student to guess the item.

As you participate in various activities together at home or in your community, ask your student which senses they are experiencing, and encourage them to identify which body parts they are using.

Interior view of the Grande Galerie, 16th–19th century. Bridgeman Images





Tips for Families

Kindergarten Module 2 | *Once Upon a Farm*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ kindergarten module 2. Read on to learn more—and for ideas about how you can support learning outside of school.

What topic is my student studying?

Arts & Letters students build knowledge of important topics in history, science, and literature. They build their vocabulary and background knowledge so that they are ready to learn more. In kindergarten module 2, *Once Upon a Farm*, students explore various farm settings and stories. They answer the module’s Essential Question: What happens on a farm?

Support your student by asking questions like these about the topic:

- What animals live on farms?
- What grows on a farm?

What is my student reading?

Arts & Letters students read books, poems, and articles. They study art. They watch knowledge-building videos. Together, these resources build students’ knowledge and reading skills. In kindergarten module 2, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *Hare and Tortoise*, Alison Murray
- *Harlem Grown: How One Big Idea Transformed a Neighborhood*, Tony Hillery and Jessie Hartland
- *No Small Potatoes: Junius G. Groves and His Kingdom in Kansas*, Tonya Bolden and Don Tate
- *Hey, Hey, Hay! A Tale of Bales and the Machines That Make Them*, Christy Mihaly and Joe Cepeda
- *Three Little Pigs*, Raina Moore and Thea Kliros
- *The Little Red Hen*, Jerry Pinkney

Invite your student to hold the book and turn the pages when you read together. Ask your student to name a favorite character and explain what they like about that character.

What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing stories, opinion paragraphs, and informative paragraphs. Modules typically focus on one writing type. In *Once Upon a Farm*, students plan, organize, and write farm stories.

Support your student’s writing by encouraging them to write at home. Invite your student to draw and label or write about what kind of farm they would like to have. Encourage your student to draw animals they would have or plants they would grow.



What vocabulary is my student learning?

The more vocabulary students know, the more successfully they can read, write, and speak.

In this module, your student will study and use these words:

- busy
- crop
- farm
- farmer
- hardworking
- harvest
- plant
- prepare
- rural
- seed
- urban

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. Point out when your student is busy or hardworking.

What else can we do to continue learning outside of school?

If you speak a language other than English, speak and read with your student in your home language. This practice can help them develop strong literacy skills.

Try some new fruits or vegetables with your student. Use your senses to explore how the food looks, feels, and tastes.

Invite your student to select a farm animal they want to learn more about. Visit the library or look online to learn about this animal.





Tips for Families

Kindergarten Module 3 | *America, Then and Now*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ kindergarten module 3. Read on to learn more—and for ideas about how you can support learning outside of school.

What topic is my student studying?

Arts & Letters students build knowledge of important topics in history, science, and literature. They build their vocabulary and background knowledge so that they are ready to learn more. In kindergarten module 3, *America, Then and Now*, students explore innovations in communities, transportation, and communication. They answer the module's Essential Question: How has innovation changed life in America over time?

Support your student by asking questions like these about the topic:

- How have you changed over time?
- What do you know about different types of transportation?
- What kind of transportation would you like to invent for our family to use?

What is my student reading?

Arts & Letters students read books, poems, and articles. They study art. They watch knowledge-building videos. Together, these resources build students' knowledge and reading skills. In kindergarten module 3, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *The Little House*, Virginia Lee Burton
- *Transportation Then and Now*, Nadia Higgins
- *Wood, Wire, Wings: Emma Lilian Todd Invents an Airplane*, Kirsten W. Larson and Tracy Subisak
- *Communication Then and Now*, Nadia Higgins
- *Take a Picture of Me, James VanDerZee!*, Andrea J. Loney and Keith Mallett
- *Now and Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin*, Gene Barretta

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Invite your student to ask questions about what they read.

What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing stories, opinion paragraphs, and informative paragraphs. Modules typically focus on one writing type. In *America, Then and Now*, students plan, organize, and write informative paragraphs about innovation.

Support your student's writing by encouraging them to write at home. Together, list the various items in your student's home that have changed over time (e.g., phone, radio, television).



What vocabulary is my student learning?

The more vocabulary students know, the more successfully they can read, write, and speak.

In this module, your student will study and use these words:

- change
- communication
- create
- failure
- future
- innovation
- invent
- past
- photograph
- present
- success
- tinker
- transportation

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. Make a list of predictions for the future.

What else can we do to continue learning outside of school?

If you speak a language other than English, speak and read with your student in your home language. This practice can help them develop strong literacy skills.

Encourage your student to ask questions about technology in their home. Discuss with your student how various technologies have changed over time.

Discuss with your student how their community has changed over time. Interview a longtime community member and ask questions about what the community was like in the past.





Tips for Families

Kindergarten Module 4 | *The Continents*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ kindergarten module 4. Read on to learn more—and for ideas about how you can support learning outside of school.

What topic is my student studying?

Arts & Letters students build knowledge of important topics in history, science, and literature. They build their vocabulary and background knowledge so that they are ready to learn more. In kindergarten module 4, *The Continents*, students explore the world through texts. They answer the module's Essential Question: What makes the world fascinating?

Support your student by asking questions like these about the topic:

- What do you find fascinating?
- What places would you like to learn more about?

What is my student reading?

Arts & Letters students read books, poems, and articles. They study art. They watch knowledge-building videos. Together, these resources build students' knowledge and reading skills. In kindergarten module 4, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *Continents: What You Need to Know*, Jill Sherman
- *Beginner's World Atlas, Fifth Edition*, National Geographic Kids
- *My First Day*, Phùng Nguyễn Quang and Huỳnh Kim Liên
- *Sing to the Moon*, Nansubuga Nagadya Isdahl and Sandra van Doorn
- *Titanosaur: Discovering the World's Largest Dinosaur*, José Luis Carballido, Diego Pol, and Florencia Gigena
- *Winged Wonders: Solving the Monarch Migration Mystery*, Meeg Pincus and Yas Imamura

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Discuss where the books you read together take place.

What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing stories, opinion paragraphs, and informative paragraphs. Modules typically focus on one writing type. In *The Continents*, students plan, organize, and write opinion paragraphs about the world.

Support your student's writing by encouraging them to write at home. Invite your student to draw and write about a place that they find fascinating.



What vocabulary is my student learning?

The more vocabulary students know, the more successfully they can read, write, and speak.

In this module, your student will study and use these words:

- adventure
- citizen
- continent
- discovery
- fascinating
- journey
- migration
- teamwork
- unfamiliar

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. Invite your student to discuss times when they showed teamwork. Discuss an imaginary journey or adventure you and your student might take on a fascinating continent.

What else can we do to continue learning outside of school?

If you speak a language other than English, speak and read with your student in your home language. This practice can help them develop strong literacy skills.

Explore maps with your student. View print or online maps with your student and invite them to share what they notice.

Visit a local landmark with your student. Invite your student to ask questions about the place you visited and describe what makes it fascinating.

