

# School-to-Home Newsletter

Scott Foresman History-Social Science for California

## Unit 1: The Land of California

**History-Social Science 4.1** Students demonstrate an understanding of the physical and human geographic features that define places and regions in California.

### Here are the main ideas we are learning:

- There are different ways to describe location, such as using directions.
- Lines of latitude and longitude can be used to find location.
- Places in California and on Earth have absolute locations that can be identified by their latitude and longitude.
- The North and South Poles are at the opposite ends of Earth.
- The equator and prime meridian divide Earth into Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western Hemispheres.
- The Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn are the lines of latitude representing the points farthest north and south at which the sun shines directly overhead.
- The capital of California is Sacramento.
- Because of the different resources found in each region of California, there are different industries and career opportunities within each region.
- The physical geography of California lends itself to population growth in certain areas.
- California has urban, suburban, and rural communities.

## Family Activities

### Talk Together

Discuss what kind of community you live in (urban, suburban, rural). How do you know? How does your community shape your life?

### Learn Together

Help your child learn geographical skills.

- Using a city or county map, figure out the directions in which you travel when going to school, a shopping mall, a library, and other familiar places.
- Read about or visit a community that is different from yours. How would life change if you lived in this community? Think about transportation, shopping, jobs, and recreation.
- Take turns hiding and looking for objects in a room. Instead of using the words “warmer” or “colder,” tell the person to head north, south, east, or west until the object is found.

### Read Together

*Maps and Mapping*, by Deborah Chancellor.  
(Kingfisher, ISBN 0-753-45759-8, 2004)  
Nonfiction

*California Here We Come!* by Pam Muñoz Ryan.  
(Charlesbridge Publishing, ISBN 0-881-06880-2, 1997) Nonfiction

*National Geographic Student Atlas of the World*  
(National Geographic, ISBN 0-792-27221-8, 2001) Nonfiction

## Unit Reading Skill

Students are learning about main ideas and details in paragraphs. A good paragraph often begins with a topic sentence that explains that paragraph's main, or most important, idea. The other sentences in the paragraph provide interesting details that support the main idea.

**THANK YOU**  
for supporting  
your child's  
education!