



## The Amazing Animal World

Essential Question

*“How can we gain information from text to use in our writing?”*



### Dear Parents,

In this second six-week unit of first grade, students read informational texts about animals and learn how each animal is unique.

### Reading Literature and Informational Text

Students will explain the differences between books that tell stories and books that give information. When reading stories, they will ask and answer questions to help them describe key details. They will use these details to retell stories with a focus on characters. When students are reading informational text, they will use the illustrations and details to describe ideas that are important, and to identify the main topic. Students will begin learning how to use text features such as a table of contents, headings and glossaries.

### Reading Foundational Skills (Word Knowledge and Fluency)

Students will read grade level texts with purpose and understanding, reading high-frequency words, and self-correcting errors and/or re-reading when necessary. They will listen to words spoken orally and practice breaking the words into parts (syllables and individual sounds). They will listen to word parts and practice blending them into words, for example /c/-/a/-/t/ = cat. Students will recognize parts of a sentence and the way those parts can be indicated with *capitalization and punctuation*.

### Writing

Students will write informational pieces that explain a topic making sure to include facts and provide a sense of closure (a good ending). They will work with their peers to complete shared research and writing projects. With the teacher’s help, students will focus on one topic and use suggestions and questions from peers to improve their writing.

### Listening and Speaking

When discussing a topic or listening to a presentation, students will follow agreed-upon rules for discussion. They will speak in complete sentences and ask questions to clear up any confusion about the topic being discussed.

### Language (Conventions of Standard English and Vocabulary)

Students will write declarative (.) and interrogative (?) sentences using correct end punctuation. They will be expected to use singular and plural nouns making sure the verbs match. For example, He hops; We hop. They will continue spelling known words correctly, and spelling unknown words by sound. When coming to an unknown word or phrase in their reading, students will use clues from the text to discover the meanings of these words or phrases. They will sort and define words by category (*colors, clothing*), characteristics (*a duck is a bird that swims*) and similar meanings (*look, peek, glance, stare, glare, scowl*).

### Handwriting & Keyboarding

Students will practice forming upper and lowercase letters correctly and writing legibly on lined paper. When using the keyboard, they will practice using their left hand to depress keys on the left side of the keyboard and their right hand for keys on the right side. They will learn to use the mouse to make an insertion point in a document.