

# Family Newsletter for Unit 2

## America's Early Communities

### Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn:

- where and how various American Indian tribes lived
- about early explorers and colonists in what is now the United States

Here are some ways that you can help your child learn:

### Talk About It

Chapter 3: American Indian Communities

**Forest life** The Cherokee and Haudenosaunee Indians lived in forests. Compare how they lived and how people living in or near forests live today.

Chapter 4: Communities in History

**Colonists** Talk with your child about what it might have been like to be a child in one of the early colonies. What might you have liked? What do you think you would not have liked?

### Make It

**Butter the colonial way** The early colonists had to grow and prepare all their own food without electricity. Work together to make your own butter! Fill a jar with a tight-fitting lid about two-thirds full with heavy cream. Heat the cream to between 60–65°F. Add two clean glass marbles. Shake and shake! But be careful not to shake so hard that the marbles break the glass. When the cream turns into butter, pour off the buttermilk. Try the butter on bread!

### Read to Learn More About It

*Corn Is Maize: The Gift of the Indians*, by Aki. Explains how corn grows and how Native Americans cultivated it.

*N.C. Wyeth's Pilgrims*, by Robert San Souci. Recounts the coming of the Pilgrims to America, with illustrations by N.C. Wyeth.

*Sarah Morton's Day*, by Kate Waters. Photo essay on a day in the life of a young girl at Plimoth Plantation.



### Technology

Check out  
[www.eduplace.com/parents/hmss05/](http://www.eduplace.com/parents/hmss05/)  
 for more information.