

Name _____

Family Times

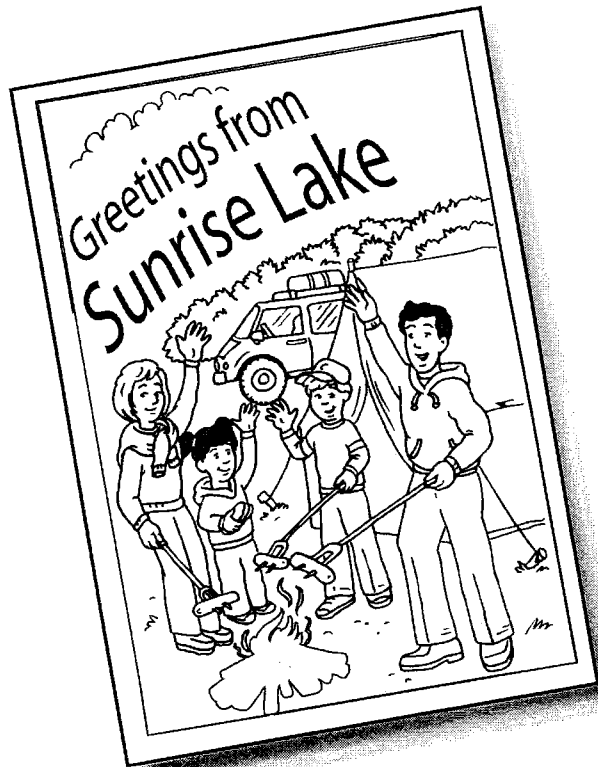
Summary

Letters Home from Yosemite

Yosemite National Park is an amazing place. In one visit, you can see giant trees, towering mountains, and interesting wildlife.

Activity

Picture Postcards Pretend your family is on a camping trip at a local park. Cut a piece of paper to be about the size of a postcard. Draw pictures of your campsite on one side. Write a message about your trip on the other side.



Comprehension Skill

Main Idea and Details

A passage's **main idea** makes a point about the passage's topic and has at least one supporting detail. **Details** are smaller pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

Activity

What's the Big Idea? Take turns with one or more family members delivering short speeches about any topic that you wish. At the end of your speech, ask your audience, "What's the big idea?" Have them identify your main point and supporting details.

Lesson Vocabulary

Words to Know

Knowing the meanings of these words is important to reading *Letters Home from Yosemite*. Practice using these words.

Vocabulary Words

glacier a great mass of ice moving very slowly down a mountain or along a valley

impressive able to have a strong effect on the mind or feelings

naturalist a person who studies living things

preserve to keep from harm or change; protect

slopes land that goes up and down at an angle

species a set of related living things that share certain characteristics and that can interbreed

wilderness a wild region with few or no people living in it

Conventions

Clauses and Complex Sentences

A **clause** is a group of related words that has a subject and a predicate. A **dependent clause** has a subject and a verb, but cannot stand alone. *For example: Whenever she goes to the forest.* An **independent clause** can stand alone. *For example: Avery brings her camera.* A **complex sentence** is made up of two clauses, one dependent clause and one independent clause. *For example: When it is hot outside, I like to go swimming.*

Activity

Geometric Sentences Read an article in a magazine or newspaper with a family member. Underline three complex sentences. Then circle the dependent clauses and put a rectangle around the independent clauses.

Practice Tested Spelling Words

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