

# My Journey Home Family Connection

Your child is reading a myth, *Journey to Cuzco*, that tells of the quest for the perfect site on which to found the Incan civilization.

DAY  
1

**Vocabulary on the Go** In this week's selection, two Incan siblings set out on an important journey. With your child, discuss a journey that your family has gone on or would like to go on. Try to use some of these words as you tell about your trip.

disadvantage    nerve    pace    barrier    undoubtedly

DAY  
2

**Amazing Mazes** One of the selections your child read this week tells about different kinds of mazes, which are like puzzles. Discuss the following idea with your child: *Many people like puzzles*. Ask your child to share details that explain why this is true.

DAY  
3

**Getting From Here to There** Arriving at a destination takes good directions and navigation skills. Test yours! Take turns dictating a set of directions to a specific spot in your home. Use each other's directions to find out where you end up. What went wrong—or right?

**CHALLENGE**

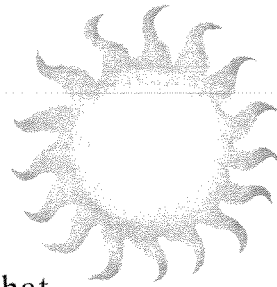
Work together to write a set of directions to a place near your home. Challenge family or friends to use the directions to get to the spot.

**Legends of the Sun** Read and discuss this Roman myth with your child. In it, a journey ends badly for a careless young boy.

### Phaeton and the Chariot

The youth Phaeton was the half-mortal son of the Sun-god. He traveled to the Palace of the Sun to finally meet his father. Phaeton approached the Sun-god and spoke with courage. "My mother tells me you are my father. Is this so?" The Sun-god smiled kindly. "Yes, my son, it is so. How might I prove it?"

Boldly, Phaeton demanded to drive the Sun-god's chariot to light the new day. His father urged Phaeton to choose differently; driving his chariot, the Sun-god knew, would require more strength than the youth possessed. But Phaeton insisted. The Sun-god relented.



As the chariot flew skyward, Phaeton realized that he could not control its powerful, fiery horses. The chariot swung wildly off its course, scorching the world below. The gods called upon their ruler, Jove, to bring an end to the destruction. With a heavy heart, Jove heaved a lightning bolt at the chariot. Phaeton fell to his death, like a shooting star.

By the side of a river, Phaeton was laid to rest. His sisters came to mourn him. There, they were transformed into poplar trees, to bend and grieve forever for their young, foolish brother.

**More Myths** Use library books or the Internet to find more Roman creation myths. What happens in the myths? What do they explain?



### Book Links

- *Amaterasu: Return of the Sun*, by Paul D. Storrie
- *National Geographic Investigates: Ancient Africa*, by Victoria Sherrow **CHALLENGE**



**Internet Challenge** The ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru give a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the ancient Incans. Together, search the Internet for images and information about this site and its history.

**Get Lost!**  
**The Puzzle of Mazes**  
Home Letter

# Home Letter

## Dear Family,

This week students will explore the question “Which traits help make a person good at solving problems?” as they read **Get Lost! The Puzzle of Mazes**. This selection is an informational text that spotlights three famous English mazes. Students will also read **Journey to Cuzco**, a myth about the origin of the Incan civilization. Finally, students will enjoy reading the poems **The Best Paths** and **Compass**.

### This week's...

**Target Vocabulary:** undoubtedly, pace, reasoned, nerve, underestimated, extending, residents, balked, techniques, barrier

**Vocabulary Strategy:** Word origins

**Comprehension Skill:** Main ideas and details—identify a topic's important ideas and supporting details

**Comprehension Strategy:** Summarize—briefly tell the important parts of the text in your own words

**Writing Focus:** Informative writing—draft and revise an informational essay

## Activities to Do Together

### Vocabulary

Spend time with your child looking up **Target Vocabulary** in a dictionary. Make sure you and your child read about each word's origin. From what language did it originate?

### Which Way?

Draw your own puzzle maze and challenge your child to find the way from the start to the finish. You may select a theme that interests your child, such as sports (find the way for the basketball to get into the hoop) or animals (help the squirrel find his way to the nuts). Encourage your child to also draw a maze and challenge you as well. As an alternative, you can search activity books, or online, to find a variety of fun and challenging puzzle mazes for you and your child to try together.

### Ready, Set, Revise!

Ask your child to draft an informational essay about Cuzco. Encourage your child to include key facts and details about the place and explain its historic significance. Discuss the completed draft with your child to see how it might be revised. Encourage your child to make the revisions.



Go to the eBook to read and listen to this week's selection.

## Get Lost! The Puzzle of Mazes

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. ballet    | 22. collage   |
| 2. echo      | 23. matinee   |
| 3. bouquet   | 24. premiere  |
| 4. cassette  | 25. embarrass |
| 5. coupon    |               |
| 6. safari    |               |
| 7. portrait  |               |
| 8. barrette  |               |
| 9. depot     |               |
| 10. courtesy |               |
| 11. petite   |               |
| 12. denim    |               |
| 13. brunette |               |
| 14. buffet   |               |
| 15. garage   |               |
| 16. khaki    |               |
| 17. crochet  |               |
| 18. chorus   |               |
| 19. essay    |               |
| 20. alphabet |               |
| 21. encore   |               |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Get Lost!**  
**The Puzzle of Mazes**  
Vocabulary Word Cards

undoubtedly

extending

pace

residents

reasoned

balked

nerve

techniques

underestimated

barrier