

# My Journey Home

## Family Connection

This week your child is reading *Tucket's Travels*, historical fiction about an older boy who must save two children from an outlaw band by fleeing into the desert.

DAY  
1

**Vocabulary on the Go** What would you do if you were on a daylong wilderness hike, and a huge rainstorm suddenly blew in? Talk about what you can do to seek shelter. Try to use as many of these words as you can.

salvation    stunted    evident    pace    seep

DAY  
2

**A Change in Plans** Like Tucket's adventure, sometimes life can take unexpected turns. With your child, recall a trip that ended up differently from your original plan. Use photos or scrapbooks if you need help jogging your memory. Together, review the events of the trip in the order in which they happened.

**CHALLENGE**

Help your child create a comic strip to retell the trip events in sequence.

DAY  
3

**A Desert Hike** Together, play a game by naming things you would need if you were hiking across a desert, like Tucket and the children. Take turns saying *I'm going to hike across a desert, so I will need \_\_\_\_*. Have your child keep a list of the items named. Later, review the items and discuss whether early settlers or pioneers would have had these items at the time in which they lived.

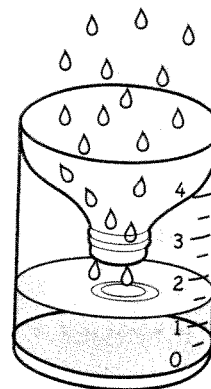
**Measure the Rain** Together, investigate rainfall in your area by making a rain gauge. (An adult should cut the plastic bottle.)

## Homemade Rain Gauge

### What You'll Need

- a clean, clear 2-liter plastic bottle
- a waterproof marker
- a knife or shears that can cut plastic
- ruler
- duct or masking tape
- water

1. Cut off top third of the bottle with a knife or shears.
2. Push the top of the bottle into the bottom to make a funnel. Tape the edge where the two parts meet.
3. Fill the bottle with just enough water to form a flat bottom for the rain gauge. Mark this water baseline as "0 inches."
4. From this "0" baseline, use a ruler to mark inches directly up the side of the bottle. Number each inch and half-inch mark.
5. Secure the gauge to something sturdy, in a place open to rain but out of direct sun.
6. Keep a log of how much rain collects over weeks or months.



**Personality Profile** What traits does teenager Francis Tucket need to care for two children on their long journey? Together, create a "personality profile" of what an ideal teenage caretaker would be like.



### Book Links

- *The Abernathy Boys*, by J. L. Hunt
- *He Will Go Fearless*, by Laurie Lawlor **CHALLENGE**



**Internet Challenge** Together, search the Internet for information about cloud formations, including cumulonimbus clouds from the selection. What kinds of clouds do you see where you live?

# Home Letter

**Tucket's Travels**  
Home Letter

## Dear Family,

This week we will find answers to the question “What does it mean to have good instincts?” In our main selection, a historical fiction story called **Tucket's Travels**, Francis Tucket must find safety in the desert for himself and two orphans as they flee a band of outlaws. We'll also read the technical text **Wild Weather**, and learn what causes the most extreme types of weather events.

### This week's...

**Target Vocabulary:** undoubtedly, salvation, shuffled, stunted, evident, pace, seep, vain, mirages, factor

**Vocabulary Strategy:** Shades of meaning

**Comprehension Skill:** Sequence of events—identify the time order in which events take place

**Comprehension Strategy:** Visualize—use text details to form pictures in your mind of what you are reading

**Writing Focus:** Opinion writing—editorial

## Activities to Do Together

### Vocabulary

Review this week's **Target Vocabulary** with your child. Then have him or her use the words to make up a historical fiction story of a pioneer family traveling across the desert.

### Extreme Environments

Talk with your child about the kinds of plants and animals that live in the desert. What makes them different from plants and animals living in other areas? Do some online research together to supplement your discussion.

### Protect Us!

Have your child imagine that he or she is a journalist living in the Old West. Ask your child to write an editorial for a local newspaper in which he or she gives reasons why law enforcers are needed to protect people from outlaws.



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

## Tucket's Travels

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. nature     | 22. sculpture    |
| 2. certain    | 23. architecture |
| 3. future     | 24. chieftain    |
| 4. villain    | 25. enclosure    |
| 5. mountain   |                  |
| 6. mixture    |                  |
| 7. pleasure   |                  |
| 8. captain    |                  |
| 9. departure  |                  |
| 10. surgeon   |                  |
| 11. texture   |                  |
| 12. curtain   |                  |
| 13. creature  |                  |
| 14. treasure  |                  |
| 15. gesture   |                  |
| 16. fountain  |                  |
| 17. furniture |                  |
| 18. measure   |                  |
| 19. feature   |                  |
| 20. adventure |                  |
| 21. leisure   |                  |

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

**Tucket's Travels**  
Vocabulary Word Cards

**undoubtedly**

**pace**

**salvation**

**seep**

**shuffled**

**vain**

**stunted**

**mirages**

**evident**

**factor**

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

**Four Stops on the  
Santa Fe Trail**  
Target Vocabulary

# Target Vocabulary

Fill in the chart below with the missing definitions, examples, and non-examples. Then finish the chart using the remaining Target Vocabulary words.

**Vocabulary**

undoubtedly	salvation	shuffled
stunted	evident	pace
seep	vain	mirages
factor		

Word	Short Definition	Example	Non-example
seep		a dripping faucet	a sealed cup
evident	clear or easy to see		the answer to a riddle
	dragged one's feet	walked sleepily after just waking up	

# Shades of Meaning

**Tucket's Travels****Vocabulary Strategies:**  
Shades of Meaning

Read each sentence. Then number the sentences from safest to least safe. The first one is done for you. You may use dictionary to help you.

1. The journey was risky. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The journey was dangerous. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The journey was safe. \_\_\_\_\_ **1**
4. The journey was unsafe. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The journey was deadly. \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Shades of Meaning

## Tucket's Travels

Vocabulary Strategies:  
Shades of Meaning

Choose three words that have a similar meaning to the word *gaze* and write them on the lines below. Provide a definition for each word. Then write a paragraph explaining how the three words you chose have a slightly different meaning from each other. You may use a dictionary or a thesaurus to help you.

1. Word 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Word 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Word 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Shades of Meaning

Read each set of words. Then circle the word that best describes a stronger feeling. You may use a dictionary or thesaurus to help you.

- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| 1. happy | thrilled    |
| 2. sad   | heartbroken |
| 3. proud | satisfied   |
| 4. angry | annoyed     |
| 5. tired | exhausted   |