

Grade 6 Science

Ocean, Atmosphere, and Climate Unit

Family Letter

Your student is about to start a unit called **Ocean, Atmosphere, and Climate** in science class. We are using a program called Amplify Science, which is split up into units about different areas of science. In each unit, students start by wondering about something that happens in the real world. They investigate, talk, read, write, and think like real scientists and engineers in order to figure out how and why that thing happens. You can discuss your student's learning with them as they solve a science mystery bit by bit throughout the unit. Much of what your student is figuring out may also be new to you, and you don't need to know the answers. We hope you can enjoy discovering new ideas along with your student.

In the Ocean, Atmosphere, and Climate unit, students investigate how ocean currents behave and what effect they have on the climate of different locations around the world, specifically the air temperature of various locations. Students focus on one location, Christchurch, New Zealand, and investigate why the air temperature is cooler during El Niño years. As they figure out what's going on with a pattern of temperature change in New Zealand, students get familiar with the practices of science, including the specific ways that scientists talk, read, collect and analyze evidence, and more. These practices will be important as students study science throughout their education.

This unit gives students many opportunities to consider different questions about air temperature and ocean currents, gather evidence to help them understand, then use that evidence to make an argument. This means students will be doing activities that involve talking, writing, reading, and investigating.

In this unit, students are investigating what's happening with temperature changes in Christchurch, New Zealand. You may wish to ask your student:

- "What did you figure out in your science lesson today?"
- "How does that help you understand what's happening with the temperature in Christchurch?"

Answering these questions can help students understand more deeply and keep them interested in learning more. To get more ideas for Ocean, Atmosphere, and Climate you can go to the Amplify Family Resources website at amplify.com/amplify-science-family-resource-intro

Thank you for helping to support your student in their science learning!

Best,
Your child's science teacher

