



Greetings,

We are starting a new science unit in class called *How Can We Map Land and Water on Earth?* The unit leads up to a science challenge. Your child will figure out how to create a map of a place on Earth where s/he has never been. Your child's at-home and out-of-school experiences can play an essential role in supporting the development of their own and their classmates' understanding of how the world works. As I work on planning the lessons, I would appreciate some ideas about how your child may have already experienced our new topic. Your feedback will help me incorporate their experiences into the unit.

If you can, please respond to as many of the following questions as you are comfortable answering. Rest assured that your child does not have to have relevant previous experiences to be successful with the unit.

1. Is your child familiar with reading or using a map?
2. Has your child ever visited a place with different kinds of land or water than we have in our region (e.g., mountains, islands, oceans, rivers)?

In addition to sharing your child's experiences with me, I encourage you to discuss topics related to this science unit with your child. This can help them make sense of what they are doing in school. Here are some examples of questions to ask at home:

1. Do you remember a time when we went somewhere new together and had to figure out where we wanted to go (a park, a mall, a new town)? What did we do to figure out what was around us? What was important for us to know?
2. Are you creating a model of Ada's park? Tell me about how you are modeling the park. Is there a part of the park that you would most like to visit? What makes you say that?

You can learn more about this science unit at [ScienceEducation.si.edu/maps-phenomenon](https://ScienceEducation.si.edu/maps-phenomenon). Please feel free to ask me questions. I want to work with you to make sure your child gets the most out of this unit.

Thank you.