



School-Home Connection

Your child is reading “The Case of the Shining Blue Planet,” by Seymour Simon. This short story is about Einstein Anderson, science whiz and amateur detective, and his friend Stanly. In this science mystery, Einstein applies his advanced scientific knowledge about our planet to stop Stanly from being cheated by someone advertising on the Internet who claims to be a cosmonaut. You might enjoy discussing the story and doing these activities with your child. Together you can develop and explore your child’s language skills.

Seeing Earth from Space

Discuss what you thought Earth looked like from space when you were a young child and your reaction the first time you saw a picture of Earth from space. You may be able to find these titles at your library to expand your discussion:

- *The Third Planet: Exploring Earth from Space* by Tam O’Shaughnessy (contributor) and Sally K. Ride. Crown Publishing, 1994.
- *USA from Space* by Anne-Catherine Fallen. Firefly Books, 1997.
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VOCABULARY

Vocabulary Launch

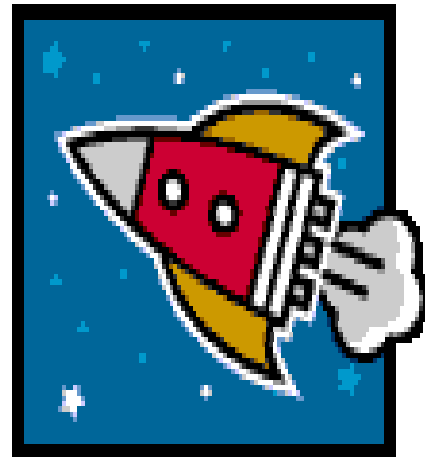
The following words are new vocabulary that your child has learned while reading “The Case of the Shining Blue Planet”:

breakthrough	enrolls
satellite	formulas
cosmonaut	altimeter
disregarded	dejectedly

Discuss the meanings of these words. Then, each day during the week, “launch” two words from the list. Try to use those two words in meaningful sentences as often as you can that day.

Family Quiz About Earth and Space: And the Answer Is...

Help your child create an Earth and space quiz game to play with family members. Use science magazines, encyclopedia articles, your child’s science textbook, and other reference sources to find facts related to Earth, space and space exploration. Use the facts to make up game questions. Then decide with your child how to present the questions in a game format.



TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

