

Explorations

Spring

History

- Mark your child's height on the edge of a door and record the date.
- Share stories from your childhood. Talk about what was the same and different about life at that time.
- Find out about the people who first inhabited the area where you live now. Were they a native tribe? What were their customs and values? What happened to the people who were here first? Visit a local Tribal Center to find out more about the first people in the area in which you live.

Government

- Identify the services in your community that are paid for with tax dollars such as roads, hospitals, police, firefighters and schools. Discuss how those services are paid for and why.
- Learn the names of the president, vice president, your local mayor, your state representatives, senators and governor. See if you can get their pictures and identify them by name and face. Better yet, talk about what they do!

Geography

- Notice and point out natural features of the environment while you are driving or looking at pictures in a book or magazines and ask your child to describe them. Look for features like hills, dunes, forests, rivers, lakes, streams, deserts, and mountains. Discuss where else you would find these same natural features.
- Find out about the largest land features in the world. What is the largest mountain, lake, or rain forest? Where are they? Locate them on a map.



Culture

- Try listening to music in other languages or from other cultures. You can find world music at your local library or online. Research the various instruments they use to make the music. How is the music similar or different from the music you typically listen to?

Economics

- Ask people with whom you are acquainted to talk about their jobs with your child.
- What do things cost? Collect change over a few days. Ask your child to count the change. Now have your child look around the kitchen cupboards and discover what they could buy with the money on the table. To fully understand the concept of "money" children need to find out how we get money, and what it buys.