

## Topic 5: Living Things

Dear Parent:

After completing this topic your child will know about living and nonliving things.

Your child will be able to identify plant and animal parts and explain how these parts help the plant or animal. Your child will also demonstrate how people can learn from plant and animal parts. Finally, your child will use his or her senses to observe living things in their environments.

### *Quest*

#### **STEM** Nature Copycats

Your child will be introduced to a bioengineer who will guide students through the Quest. In this problem-based learning activity, your child will first think of a human problem and then use a plant or animal part to design something that will solve that problem. Like a bioengineer, your child will design something based on plant or animal parts that solves human problems.

#### **STEM** uDemonstrate... Lab

#### **How do the spines of cacti help them?**

Your child will do many investigations in this topic, including a final performance-based assessment in the uDemonstrate lab. In this lab, your child will make a model to study nature, specifically the how the spines of cacti protect it.

#### **uEngineer It!** Design **STEM**

#### **Design a Tool**

Your child will choose an animal tool and think how that tool can be adapted for human use. Your child will decide what materials to use for the tool, design the tool, and then explain how the tool will work.