



Curriculum Overview

Subject: Social Studies

Grade:3

By the end of the year, you can expect your child to:

- Understand that citizens are part of a community and culture, and recognize that communities use rules and laws to keep people safe
- Recognize that communities exist in different countries all over the world
- Explain cardinal and intermediate directions on a map's compass rose
- Identify the features of urban, suburban, and rural communities and identify connections between rural, suburban, and urban areas
- Identify various geographic features (valley, plateau, mountain range)
- Identify the 5 regions (Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, West) of the United States
- Identify living and non-living natural resources
- Identify the physical characteristics (i.e. warm or cold climates) of different places and explain how people's lives are influenced by these characteristics
- Recognize the ways people negatively affect the environment, and how people can care for the environment
- Interpret a simple historical timeline
- Understand that inventions cause changes in many different areas (communication, transportation, and daily living)
- Describe the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Sumer, Egypt, China, Greece, Rome, and Mali and Identify ways ancient civilizations influence life today
- Identify European settlements in North America, and describe the interactions between Native Americans and settlers
- Identify why and how the colonists fought for freedom, the major events and people of the Revolutionary War, and understand the role of important documents in US History

- Understand that people used to arrive at Ellis Island when moving from other countries, and discuss what it was like for children to be immigrants arriving at Ellis Island
- Describe immigrants' arrival and living conditions in the US, and understand that a population map shows patterns of settlement
- Understand how different groups share their cultures in the United States
- Compare and contrast cultures and diversity in communities
- Identify ways that immigrants contribute to communities
- Recognize literature, art, music, dance, architecture, and religion as expressions of culture, compare and contrast the many ways people express their culture.
- Identify St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mexican Independence Day, and Kwanzaa as examples of cultural holiday
- Compare and contrast how different cultural groups celebrate the New Year
- Compare and contrast language, dress and food in various cultures around the world, define cultural identity and identify expressions of different cultures around the world
- Identify and explain the significance of national holidays, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, President's Day, Veteran's Day, and Independence Day
- Understand basic rights of citizens, including the freedoms of religion, speech, press, and assembly
- Describe the features of state and national government and its leaders
- Identify services that state and national governments provide
- Explain why countries import and export goods
- Understand how people earn income and the types of work they do.
- Recognize that smaller businesses are important parts of communities.