



Southmoreland School District

Third Grade Social Studies Curriculum Overview

Third Grade Social Studies Overview:

The third grade social studies curriculum is divided into four modules: (1) Civics and Government, (2) Economics, (3) Geography, and (4) History. Third grade students apply their emerging understanding of civics, economics, geography, and history to their communities and others around the world. They are empowered with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to make informed decisions that are relevant to their lives today. Students develop critical thinking and interpersonal communication skills to become responsible and productive citizens in our culturally diverse and interdependent world. In addition, students learn about how their community works as well as the variety of ways that communities organize themselves. Finally, students develop conceptual understandings by examining the geographic and economic aspects of life in their own neighborhoods and compare them to those of people long ago. The civic mission of social studies requires more than the acquisition of content. The National Council of Social Studies defines social studies as “the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence.”

Module Titles:

Module 1: Civics and Government

Module 2: Economics

Module 3: Geography

Module 4: History

Module Overviews:

Module 1: Civics and Government

The goal of this module is for students to learn about our government and our rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Third grade students identify the different principles of local, county, state and national government. They apply the roles of the three branches of government in the community and in the United States. Students compare and contrast the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Finally, students describe how citizens participate in school and community activities.

Module 2: Economics

The goal of this module is for students to understand the basic elements of a community’s economic system, including producers, distributors, and consumers of goods and services. Third grade students investigate scarcity and identify examples of resources, wants, and needs. They associate economic characteristics of local economies to capitalism, socialism, communism, and mixed economies. Students identify examples of the local, county, state, and national government’s involvement in the



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economy and how taxes are related to government services. Finally, students provide examples of trade, imports, and exports in the local community.

Module 3: Geography

The goal of this module is for students to recognize the impact of geographic locations on its people. Third grade students use geographic tools to identify how they are used to organize and interpret geographic information. They locate major places, regions, and physical features in the United States. Students Identify the human characteristics of places and regions in the United States related to culture and settlement. Finally, students describe the effects of physical systems on the people of a region.

Module 4: History

The goal of this module is for students to understand the significance of historical events that shaped our nation. Third grade students identify the difference between the past, present, and future using timelines and/or other graphic representations. They distinguish between fact, opinion, multiple points of view, and primary sources to interpret historical events. Students conduct teacher guided inquiry on a specific topic. In addition, students describe how immigration brought cultural changes to the United States. The students study the significance of the U.S. Constitution. Finally, students identify how working conditions brought about changes in the American workplace.