

Oakwood City School District: Third Grade Social Studies

Third Grade Social Studies

Ohio's social studies content standards incorporate history, geography, government and economics in order to prepare students to be participating citizens.

Specifically, social studies:

- Helps students develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for themselves and for the common good
- Prepares students for their role as citizens and decision makers in a diverse, democratic society
- Enables students to learn about significant people, places, events and issues in the past in order to understand the present
- Fosters students' ability to act responsibly and become successful problem solvers in an interdependent world of limited resources.

Social Studies Inquiry and Application Standards

Inquiry, as theory, is a way in which people view the world. It requires critical thinking, a contribution of new ideas and reflection throughout the entire process. As such, the student is at the center of the experience with the teacher as "co-partner and guide". As teachers create inquiry curricula around students' interests and strengths, they also help students broaden the ways in which they think, question and explore. Investigation is a journey and teachers provide the guidance for the journey when they recognize that a student's experience of the inquiry process is a personal one.

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Content Standards

I. Communities: Past and Present, Near and Far

A. History

1. Historical Thinking and Skills: Historical thinking begins with a clear sense of time – past, present and future – and becomes more precise as students progress. Historical thinking includes skills such as locating, researching, analyzing and interpreting primary and secondary sources so that students can begin to understand the relationships among events and draw conclusions.

a) Events in local history can be shown on timelines organized by years, decades and centuries.

b) Primary sources, such as artifacts, maps and photographs, can be used to show change over time.

2. Heritage: Ideas and events from the past have shaped the world as it is today. The actions of individuals and groups have made a difference in the lives of others.

a) Local communities change over time.

B. Geography

1. Spatial Thinking and Skills: Spatial thinking examines the relationships among people, places and environments by mapping and graphing geographic data. Geographic data are compiled, organized, stored and made visible using traditional and geospatial technologies. Students need to be able to access, read, interpret and create maps and other geographic representations as tools of analysis.

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a) Physical and political maps have distinctive characteristics and purposes. Places can be located on a map by using the title, key, alphanumeric grid and cardinal directions.

2. Places and Regions: A place is a location having distinctive characteristics, which give it meaning and character and distinguish it from other locations. A region is an area with one or more common characteristics, which give it a measure of homogeneity and make it different from surrounding areas. Regions and places are human constructs.

a) Daily life is influenced by the agriculture, industry and natural resources in different communities.

3. Human Systems: Human systems represent the settlement and structures created by people on Earth's surface. The growth, distribution and movements of people are driving forces behind human and physical events. Geographers study patterns in cultures and the changes that result from human processes, migrations and the diffusion of new cultural traits.

a) Evidence of human modification of the environment can be observed in the local community.

b) Systems of transportation and communication move people, products and ideas from place to place.

c) Communities may include diverse cultural groups.

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C. Government

1. Civic Participation and Skills: Civic participation embraces the ideal that an individual actively engages in his or her community, state or nation for the common good. Students need to practice effective communication skills including negotiation, compromise and collaboration. Skills in accessing and analyzing information are essential for citizens in a democracy.

a) Members of local communities have social and political responsibilities.

b) Individuals make the community a better place by solving problems in a way that promotes the common good.

2. Rules and Laws: Rules play an important role in guiding behavior and establishing order in families, classrooms and organizations. Laws are enacted by governments to perform similar functions.

a) Laws are rules which apply to all people in a community and describe ways people are expected to behave. Laws promote order and security, provide public services and protect the rights of individuals in the local community.

3. Roles and Systems of Government: The purpose of government in the United States is to establish order, protect the rights of individuals and promote the common good. Governments may be organized in different ways and have limited or unlimited powers.

a) Governments have authority to make and enforce laws.

b) The structure of local governments may differ from one community to another.

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4. Economics: Economic Decision Making and Skills. Effective economic decision making requires students to be able to reason logically about key economic issues that affect their lives as consumers, producers, savers, investors and citizens. Economic decision making and skills engage students in the practice of analyzing costs and benefits, collecting and organizing economic evidence, and proposing alternatives to economic problems.

- a) Line graphs are used to show changes in data over time.
- b) Both positive and negative incentives affect people's choices and behaviors.

5. Scarcity -There are not enough resources to produce all the goods and services that people desire.

- a) Individuals must make decisions because of the scarcity of resources. Making a decision involves an opportunity cost, the value of the next best alternative given up when an economic choice is made.

6. Production and Consumption-Production is the act of combining natural resources, human resources, capital goods and entrepreneurship to make goods and services. Consumption is the use of goods and services.

- a) A consumer is a person whose wants are satisfied by using goods and services. A producer makes goods and/or provides services.

7. Markets - Markets exist when buyers and sellers interact. This interaction determines market prices and thereby allocates scarce resources, goods and services.

- a) A market is where buyers and sellers exchange goods and services.

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8. Financial Literacy -Financial literacy is the ability of individuals to use knowledge and skills to manage limited financial resources effectively for lifetime financial security.

- a) Making decisions involves weighing costs and benefits.
- b) A budget is a plan to help people make personal economic decisions for the present and future and to become more financially responsible.