






## 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Welcome to 3rd Grade! This guide will help you understand what your child will learn in social studies this year and how you can support their learning at home. Throughout the year, your child will explore early American history, geography, government, and economics through inquiry, discussion, and hands-on learning. If you have questions, contact your child's teacher.

### This year's focus: **US History – American Indian Cultures through Colonization**

Your child will begin a three-year journey through U.S. history, starting with American Indian cultures and continuing through European exploration and colonial life.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HISTORY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn about early American Indian cultures in different regions of North America</li><li>• Explore the reasons for and challenges of European exploration</li><li>• Study the accomplishments of European explorers</li><li>• Understand cooperation and conflict between explorers and American Indians</li><li>• Discover how and why the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern colonies were founded</li><li>• Compare colonial life from multiple perspectives</li></ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GEOGRAPHY</b></p> <p>Locate major rivers (Mississippi, Ohio, Rio Grande, Colorado, Hudson, St. Lawrence)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify major mountain ranges (Appalachian, Rocky)</li><li>• Understand how geography influenced settlement, exploration, and economic activities</li><li>• Use latitude, longitude, equator, and prime meridian to describe locations</li></ul> 
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CIVICS &amp; GOVERNMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn about the three branches of government at the national and state levels: Executive, Legislative, Judicial</li><li>• Understand the roles and responsibilities of each branch</li><li>• Explore democratic values like respecting others, obeying laws, and participating in civic life</li></ul> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ECONOMICS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify the four types of productive resources: Natural, Human, Capital, Entrepreneurship</li><li>• Understand how governments provide services and how taxes pay for them</li><li>• Learn about trade, interdependence, and voluntary exchange</li><li>• Explore opportunity cost and making smart choices about saving and spending</li></ul> 

## HOW YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN

Third graders learn through a mix of research, discussion, and creative expression:

- Ask & Wonder: Pose questions like “Why did people explore new lands?” or “How did geography shape life in the colonies?”
- Investigate: Read texts, analyze maps, study timelines, and examine artifacts
- Share & Explain: Write reports, create posters, act out historical events, or present findings
- Reflect: Connect past events to today’s world and their own experiences

## SKILLS YOUR CHILD WILL BUILD

- Use maps and globes to locate places and features
- Compare and contrast cultures, events, and perspectives
- Organize events chronologically and identify cause and effect
- Interpret timelines, charts, and tables
- Use primary and secondary sources to answer questions
- Draw conclusions and make generalizations

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Explore history together: Visit museums or historic sites
- Talk about government: Discuss how laws are made and why they matter
- Practice map skills: Locate rivers, mountains, and colonies on a map
- Read biographies of explorers and American Indian leaders
- Discuss choices: Talk about saving, spending, and how people work together in communities

3rd Grade Social Studies helps students understand how the past shapes the present. With your support, your child will grow into a thoughtful, informed, and active citizen.



# SOCIAL STUDIES

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**HISTORIC, GEOGRAPHIC, POLITICAL & ECONOMIC LITERACY.**