

# Social Studies

## THIRD GRADE

### People, Places, and Regions: Geographic Studies

---

People, Places, and Regions: Geographic Studies is a year-long course that emphasizes the necessary skills and information students need to become knowledgeable about the physical, human, social, historical, and political world in which they live. In this third-grade course, all four essential strands are interwoven, placing the most emphasis on geography. This course builds upon the geographic knowledge acquired by students from kindergarten through second grade and establishes a firm geographic foundation for them to build upon throughout life.

Students will:

1. Locate the equator, tropic of Capricorn, and tropic of Cancer, on maps and globes.
  - Use cardinal and intermediate directions to find a location on a map or globe
  - Demonstrate an understanding of simple grid lines
  - Measure distance between two locations using a scale of miles
  - Locate physical and human features on a map using labels, symbols, and legends
  - Identify limitations of maps
2. Describe physical characteristics, including landforms, bodies of water, soil, and vegetation of various places on Earth.
  - Locate countries in the Western Hemisphere
  - Locate historical landmarks on maps
  - Identify processes of Earth, including continental drift and natural hazards
3. Identify components of various ecosystems.
4. Locate population shifts due to historic changes in the Western Hemisphere.
  - Identify human and physical criteria used to define regions
5. Identify national and international trading patterns of the United States.
  - Differentiate between producers and consumers and imports and exports
6. Identify conflicts involving use of land, economic competition for scarce resources, different political views, boundary disputes, and cultural differences within and between different geographic areas.

- Identify examples of cooperation within and between different geographic areas
  - Locate areas of political conflict on maps and globes
  - Explain different viewpoints on contemporary issues at the local, state, national, and international levels
7. Describe the relationship between locations of resources and patterns of population distribution in the Western Hemisphere.
- Locate major natural resources and deposits throughout Alabama, the United States, and the Western Hemisphere
  - Describe present-day mechanization of labor as opposed to the historical use of human labor to harvest natural resources
  - Evaluate the geographic impact of using major energy and technological resources in the twenty-first century