

2016-2017 Third Grade Overview: Social Studies

Month(s)	Unit	Key Concepts "Students will know..."	Key Skills "Students will be able to..."
September November	Unit 1: World Geography and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How physical features (landforms and bodies of water) and climate support human settlement. • How communities adapt to and/or modify their environment to meet their needs. • How to define their culture through an examination of a variety of cultures, as well as their own. • What comprises the elements of culture (arts, music, dance, literature, language, customs, traditions and beliefs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the continents and oceans using globes and maps. • Use map features such as title, legend or key, compass orientation, author, date, grid and scale to interpret political, physical, vegetation and resource maps. • Use cardinal and intermediate directions and principal parallels to locate communities or resources relative to the United States and other selected world communities. • Act as anthropologists to explore cultural heritage. • Identify roles in local and global communities.
November- February	Unit 2: China: A case study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to use maps and other tools to explore China's geography and location. • How geographical factors influence Chinese culture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about China through an examination of legends, folktales, oral histories and historical narratives. • Explore Chinese inventions and innovations. • Explore how traditional culture, including music, art and religious practice, influences modern China. • Describe how trade along the Silk Road demonstrates the process of cultural exchange. • Explore how trade both shaped China and allowed Chinese culture to shape the world throughout history. • Explore the government of China. • Examine the issue of human rights in present-day China.
March- June	Unit 3: Nigeria: A case study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Nigeria's geographic location affects its economy and natural resources. • Key moments and leaders in Nigeria's history. • Key aspects of culture and community through a virtual visit to Lagos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate Nigeria on a map • Explain and describe the various regions of Nigeria, including through the use of satellite images. • Explore the different traditions and customs of Nigerians including the legacy of traditional culture. • Explore the cultural contributions of Nigeria, including contemporary art and artists. • Read and analyze stories from Nigeria in order to explore key moments in history and aspects of culture. • Compare a day at school in Nigeria to a day at school in the United States in order to compare life in Nigeria to life in the United States. • Describe the Nigerian economy, including the importance of natural resources and agriculture. • Explore Nigerian myth and legends and how they influence present-day culture and traditions. • Explore environmental issues and causes of land degradation and deforestation in Nigeria. • Compare and contrast life in Nigeria to students' own daily life.