

DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM
GRADE 3

	Content/Standard	PA Standard(S)	THIRD GRADE EXPECTATIONS	Every third grader should be able to:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
1	The students will be able to understand how Physical Geography is a part of daily life.	7.1.3	Review map and globe skills.	Identify and locate places and regions such as: 7 continents, 4 oceans, equator, prime meridian, 4 hemispheres and the cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west).		
				Identify map and globe elements such as: latitude, longitude, map key, symbols, compass rose and title.		
				List advantages of using a map and/or a globe.		
				Classify maps based on their uses. (E.g. physical, political, product).		
		7.1.3 7.2.3	Identify and recognize the diversity of geographical features in the United States.	Name characteristics of landforms found in the United States. (E.g. Rocky Mountains, Appalachian Mountains, Great Plains, etc.).		
				Identify geographic terms such as prairie, canyon, plateau, continent, river basin, ocean, etc.		
		7.2.3	Distinguish between weather and climate.	Identify a place in a region by its weather and climate.		
				Give a definition of weather and climate.		
				Identify regions of the United States for its distinct climate: cold/wet, cold/dry, hot/dry, hot/wet.		

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2	Identify the features which make a community	6.5.3 6.1.3	Describe a community as a place where people live, work, and play together.	Define the concept of a community.		
				Identify reasons people form communities.		
				Identify and explain similarities and differences among communities in different places.		
				Explain how communities help people to meet their needs.		
		7.3.3	Identify the places in a community.	Name places that people share in a community and explain how these places are shared.		
				Identify and describe the features of a community that are recreational, local government, business and residential areas.		
				Locate and describe the central business district of a city.		
		6.2.3	Identify ways people in a community cooperate.	Explain the role of citizens in a community.		
				Describe ways people in a community share holidays and customs.		
				Describe actions that change and improve a community.		
			Explain how a community develops and grows.	Explain how geographic features of a community affect its growth.		
				Distinguish between natural resources, human resources, and capital resources and how they influence the growth of a community.		
Identify ways in which communities change and stay the same over time.						

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3	Distinguish various types of communities.	6.4.3	Identify farming areas as a rural community and distinguish between various types of farms.	Distinguish between a town and a village as types of rural communities.		
				Define a rural area.		
				Recognize that location, climate, and natural resources determine the products that a rural community produces.		
				Name and describe three different types of farms.		
		7.3.3	Identify a city as an urban area and a suburb as a part of an urban area.	Distinguish between a city and a town.		
				Identify a suburb as a community located near a city.		
				List common features that most suburbs share.		
		7.3.3	Describe living and working in a city and suburb.	Explain what is meant by the term urban communities.		
				Demonstrate that major cities in our country are located near important natural resources that help them grow.		
				Compare the ways people in communities meet their needs.		
			Outline the similarities and differences between a large city and a small community.			

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4	Explore the history of early communities.	7.3.3	Define the term culture and give examples of a cultural aspect.	Explain what culture is.	
				Describe ways in which people learn about their culture, such as through legends.	
				Name some aspects of culture.	
		8.2.3	Identify Native Americans as the first people to live in North America and describe the culture of a Native American people.	Explain how natural resources have affected the way of life of the Plain Indians.	
				Describe the landforms and climate of different Native American groups and how they affected their culture.	
		8.1.3	Identify early Spanish settlements in North America and describe the influence of their culture on our country.	Locate the places in the United States that the Spanish settled.	
				Describe the oldest community, St. Augustine, in North America and its importance to the Spanish to protect trading routes.	
				Evaluate how Spanish settlements have influenced American Culture.	
		8.3.3	Identify the people of the Plymouth community and describe daily life in a pilgrim colony	Describe how early colonists adapted to the land.	
				Name the natural resources that made Plymouth a good place to build a community.	
				Describe the interaction between the colonists and the native people.	
				Recognize that cooperation among the colonists helped to bring the community together.	