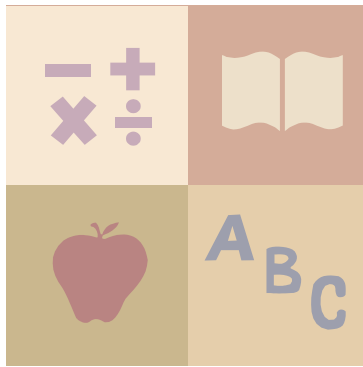


Harford County Public Schools

Meeting the Maryland State Department Voluntary State Curriculum Standards for Third Grade Social Studies



Third Grade

The social studies is an exciting field of study comprising many social science subjects, including: History, Political Science, Geography, and Economics. The Voluntary State Curriculum also provides information on skill development and multicultural education associated with the social studies. In third grade, students learn about civic life in Harford County and the many individuals and groups who influence life in Harford County. Students also learn how to differentiate between a primary and secondary source of information, fit Harford County into the world using geographic tools and vocabulary, and describe the economic lives of people residing in Harford County.

**Jacqueline C. Haas, Ed.D.,
Superintendent**

Third Grade

Political Science

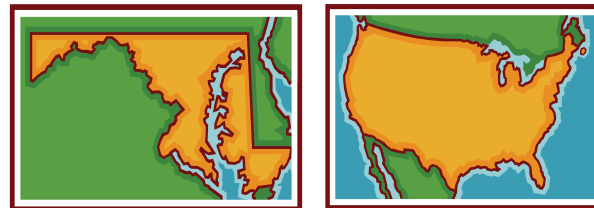
To understand the historical development and current status of the democratic principles and development of skills and attitudes necessary to become a responsible citizen, students will:

- explain the role of individuals and groups in creating rules and laws to maintain order, protect citizens, and provide services
- explain how certain practices are connected with the democratic principles of being a citizen
- explain how people and events contributed to the American political system
- analyze the role of individual and group participation in creating a supportive community
- explain the rights and responsibilities of being a member of the school and community

Peoples of the Nations and World

To understand the diversity and commonality, human interdependence, and global cooperation of the people of Maryland, the United States, and the World through a multicultural and a historic perspective, students will:

- analyze and describe elements of a multicultural setting
- identify and describe how individuals and groups share and borrow from other cultures
- analyze how groups of people interact



History

To understand significant ideas, beliefs, and themes; to organize patterns and events; and analyze how individuals and societies have changed over time in Maryland and the United States, students will:

- examine differences between past and present time
- investigate how people lived in the past using a variety of primary and secondary sources

Geography

To understand geographic concepts and processes to examine the role of culture, technology, and the environment in the location and distribution of human activities and spatial connections throughout time, students will:

- use geographic tools to locate and construct meaning about places on Earth
- compare places and regions around the world using geographic characteristics
- describe how transportation and communication networks link places through the movement of people, goods, and ideas
- explain how people modify, protect, and adapt to their environment



Economics

To understand the development of economic reasoning and the historical development and current status of economic principles, institutions, and processes needed to be effective citizens, consumers, and workers participating in local communities, the nation, and the world, students will:

- explain that people must make choices because resources are limited relative to unlimited wants for goods and services
- examine the production process
- examine how technology affects the way people live, work, and play
- describe different types of markets
- identify goods and services provided by the government and paid for by taxes
- describe how consumers acquire goods and services

Social Studies Skills

To understand reading, writing, and thinking processes and skills; to gain knowledge and understanding of political, historical, and current events using chronological and spatial thinking, economic reasoning, and historical interpretation; and framing and evaluating questions from primary and secondary sources, students will:

- use appropriate strategies and opportunities to increase understandings of social studies vocabulary
- use strategies to prepare for reading (before reading)
- use strategies to monitor understanding and derive meaning from text and portions of text (during reading)
- use strategies to demonstrate understanding of the text (after reading)
- use informal writing strategies, such as journal writing, note taking, quick writes, and graphic organizers to clarify, organize, remember, and/or express new understandings
- use formal writing, such as multi-paragraph essays, historical investigations, research reports, letters and summaries to inform
- use formal writing, such as multi-paragraph essays, historical investigations, editorials, and letters to persuade
- use timed, on-demand writing to demonstrate understanding on assessments (Constructed Responses)
- identify a topic/situation/problem that requires further study
- identify primary and secondary sources of information that relate to the topic/situation/problem being studied
- engage in field work that relates to the topic/situation/problem being studied
- organize information from non-print and print sources
- interpret information from primary and secondary sources
- evaluate and synthesize information from a variety of sources
- describe how the country has changed over time and how people have contributed to its change, drawing from maps, photographs, newspapers, and other sources
- use historic contexts and current events/issues to answer questions