

Instructional Vocabulary

Grade 3 Social Studies

Unit 1: Our Community

- **Map Scale** – an indication of the relationship between the distances on a map, chart, or plan and the corresponding actual distances. Examples include: "1 inch equals 1 mile" or "1:25" or a line marked at intervals equal to 1 mile, 5 miles, etc. Scale can also mean the size of an area being studied. For example, a small-scale study looks at conditions in one place, whereas a large-scale study looks at conditions in an entire nation. Relationships observed at one scale may not be true at another scale.
- **Compass rose** – a circle or similar design which includes graduated degrees or quarter points (intermediate directions), printed on a chart or map for reference. The compass rose usually shows both magnetic and true directions. A compass rose shows the orientation of a map on Earth. Geographers use a compass rose or the north arrow when drawing their own maps. It includes the cardinal directions north, south, east, and west, as well as the intermediate directions northwest, southwest, northeast, and southeast.
- **Grid system** – is a network of horizontal and vertical lines used to locate points on a map or a chart by means of coordinates. The grid system often used on state highway maps consists of columns and rows labeled with letters and numbers. A place identified as G25 in the index is found at the intersection of "column" G and "row" 25 (or vice versa). Latitude and longitude also form divisions in a grid system.
- **Physical environment** – encompasses all nature-made contours to the Earth's surface such as landforms and geographical regions (mountains, deserts, plains, and wetlands); climate, landforms, and natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, hurricanes, floods and tornadoes.

Unit 2: Celebrate Freedom Week

- **Consent of the governed** – when people agree to establish and abide by collective rules, they consent to be governed. The philosophy of natural rights articulated in the Declaration of Independence set the standards for the U.S. government, that the only legitimate government is one based on the consent of the governed.
- **Constitution** – the founding document that outlines the powers of state and federal government. One of the foundations of the American system of government is the use of a written constitution defining the values and principles of government and establishing the limits of power.
- **Bill of Rights** – the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights restricts the powers and authority of the Federal Government and establishes/ensures civil and political rights to individuals.
- **Declaration of Independence** – adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, the purpose of the Declaration of Independence was to declare that the 13 colonies were free, independent states, free from rule by Great Britain's monarchy.
- **Constitutional Republic** – a representative form of government whose representatives derive their authority from the consent of the governed, serve for an established tenure, and are sworn to uphold the constitution (Grade 3 TEKS, (a) Introduction (6)).

Unit 3: Physical Characteristics of Communities

- **Physical characteristics of places** – features that result from climatic and tectonic processes. These include soil, landforms, bodies of water, types of vegetation, and climate.

- **Physical processes** – processes that create, maintain, and modify Earth's physical features and environments. Continental drift, plate tectonics, erosion, and tornadoes are physical processes. Changes in landforms, weather, climate, vegetation, and soils occur over long periods of time. Floods and earthquakes are physical processes that have an immediate and powerful impact on the environment.
- **Physical environment** – the combination of a place's physical characteristics; everything in and on Earth's surface and its atmosphere within which organisms, communities, or objects exist (deserts, mountains, wetlands, plains)

Unit 4: Human Characteristics of Communities

- **Human characteristics of place** – human characteristics are those things that have been put into place by humans, not nature. They include the buildings and roads, types of houses people build, the ways they earn a living, the games children play, the languages people speak, their religious beliefs, their ethnicity, the daily schedules they follow, the foods they eat, and how they govern themselves
- **Human processes** – human processes are put into place by people adapting to and modifying the environment to meet their needs. Human processes have short-term and long-term impacts on the landscape. Examples of human processes include urbanization (city development), migration, economic development, settlement, and the formation of political systems.

Unit 5: Cultural Characteristics of Communities

- **Cultural characteristics** – human characteristics of place, as much as roads and buildings are. Cultural characteristics include social structures, languages, belief systems, institutions, technology, art, foods, and traditions
- **Cultural heritage** – people who share characteristics of race, ethnicity, religion, education, and interests or social standing and also often share a body of customs, beliefs, social forms, and material traits share cultural heritage. People who share these characteristics are members of culture groups from various communities.
- **Common good** – the idea that there is a shared sense of responsibility among members/citizens in a society that balances the needs of the individual

Unit 6: People Influence Communities: Heroes

- **Hero** – one who shows great courage and is admired for achievements and [noble](#) qualities; individual who made significant contributions to a historic event

Unit 7: Communities Change Over Time

- **Human processes** – processes in which human beings are involved. Examples of human processes include urbanization (city development), migration, economic development, settlement, and the formation of political systems. They also have short-term and long-term impacts on the landscape. As humans pollute the environment or construct houses and cities, the environment suffers both immediate and long term consequences. Natural resources destroyed by overuse, such as oil, cannot be quickly replaced. People attempt to control human processes through regulation and they try to reduce the impact of the physical in a variety of ways, such as building diversion ditches to reduce flooding, or installing tornado warning systems
- **Physical processes** – naturally occurring processes that change the earth's surfaces. There are four types of physical processes that operate in the atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. Examples of

physical processes include changes in landforms, weather, climate, vegetation, and soils. Continental drift (plate tectonics) is also a physical process, as are erosion, tornadoes; floods, and earthquakes.

- **Community** – a group of people interacting for mutual well-being in a particular geographic location giving each other both freedom and security.

Unit 8: Leading the Way: People Influence Communities

- **Pasteurization** –The process of superheating foods, usually liquids, to a particular temperature for a particular length of times, to slow microbial growth. The food is then cooled immediately and is ready for consumption. Pasteurization allows foods to remain viable for longer periods of time, and it reduces the number of disease-causing pathogens in that food. Foods that are usually pasteurized are milk, eggs, fruit juices, honey and syrup. Louis Pasteur invented this process in 1864.
- **Vaccine** – Protect the body against infectious diseases. When everyone in a community is inoculated, it creates a ‘herd immunity’ which protects everyone in the community from a particular communicable disease. Jonas Salk invented the vaccine against polio, a disease whose outbreak in the United States after World War II infected between 13,000 and 20,000 people annually, usually children. The disease results in mild to severe paralysis and sometimes death. Since the polio vaccine, according to the Centers for Disease Control, the last polio case in the U.S. was reported in 1993.
- **Innovation** – A new idea, method or device; the introduction of something new.
- **Influence** – To have an effect on the condition or development of something.

Unit 9: How Communities Work: Citizens and Government

- **Consent of the governed** – when people agree to establish and abide by a government, they consent to be governed. The philosophy of natural rights articulated in the Declaration of Independence, set the standards for the U.S. government, that the only legitimate government is one based on the consent of the governed.
- **Local government officials** – the local government assumes responsibility for most services provided to citizens. The judicial branch of local government, the municipal court, handles most civil disputes and legal infractions. Local officials may include the mayor, members of city council, and members of the board of education, the sheriff, and others. They are either elected or appointed to their positions. Local officials often speak to students and to civic organizations, and most meetings of local agencies are open to the public so people can participate in their government.
- **Local government services** – services provided by the local government include public services such as police, fire, and street lights; public utilities such as water, gas, and electricity; transportation services including road maintenance and construction, bus or subway systems, airports, and harbors; and education and recreation services such as schools, libraries, and museums, parks, and sports facilities. Local governments generate revenue to pay for these from property and sales taxes and grants from state and national governments.

Unit 10: The Free Enterprise System

- **Economic system** - Economic systems are organized sets of procedures used within communities or between communities to govern the production and distribution of goods and services. The economy of the United States is considered a market economy though aspects of a command economy influence major segments of the nation’s economy such as transportation.

- **Free enterprise** – a free enterprise economy or system is the same as a market economy. In a market economy, individuals depend on supply, demand, and prices to determine the answers to the four economic questions of “what to produce,” “how to produce,” “how much to produce,” and “for whom to produce.” The system has four characteristics: economic freedom, voluntary exchange, private property, and the profit motive. The free enterprise system may also be referenced as capitalism or the free market system.

Unit 11: Entrepreneurs Within the Free Enterprise System

- **Technology** – anything invented by humans to solve a problem. Technology is the application of processes, methods, or knowledge to achieve a specific purpose. Scientists and engineers develop technology with positive outcomes in mind such as increasing production and improving communication. Products of technology including computers, telephones, radios, and scientific equipment affect human conditions. Many believe the influences are positive, but some consider the negative ramifications of technology. For example, citizens differ in their viewpoints of nuclear energy. Does it provide safe fuel, or do the risks of disaster override its potential?
- **Invention** – a new device, process or item; something new that a person makes or thinks of

Unit 12: Choices Affect Communities

- **Civic responsibility** – in our society, freedoms carry some responsibilities to being part of the society. These include voting, keeping up with issues, holding public officials accountable for their actions, obeying the law, serving on a jury, and serving the community.