



**Marietta City Schools**  
**District Unit Planner**

*Grade 3 Social Studies*

<b>Theme</b>	<i>Unit 2 United States Geography</i>	<b>Unit duration (Days)</b>	<i>10-20 Days</i>
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**GA DoE Standards**

**SS3G1 Locate major topographical features on a physical map of the United States.**

a. Locate major rivers of the United States of America: Mississippi, Ohio, Rio Grande, Colorado, Hudson, and St. Lawrence. b. Locate major mountain ranges of the United States of America: the Appalachian and Rocky.

**SS3G2 Locate and describe the equator, prime meridian, and lines of latitude and longitude on a globe.**

**Information Processing Skills:**

1. compare similarities and differences
3. identify issues and/or problems and alternative solutions
6. identify and use primary and secondary sources
7. interpret timelines, charts, and tables
8. identify social studies reference resources to use for a specific purpose
9. construct charts and tables
10. analyze artifacts
11. draw conclusions and make generalizations

**Map and Globe Skills:**

1. use a compass rose to identify cardinal directions
2. use intermediate directions
3. use a letter/number grid system to determine location
4. compare and contrast the categories of natural, cultural, and political features found on maps
9. use latitude and longitude to determine location

Essential Questions	
<p><b>Factual—</b></p> <p>What are the major rivers in our country and how have they shaped culture? What features of globes and maps help us identify locations?</p> <p><b>Inferential—</b></p> <p>How can we describe our country’s land and water? Why are land and water features important? Why do we have an equator, prime meridian, and lines of latitude and longitude on globes and maps?</p> <p><b>Critical Thinking-</b></p> <p>How can mountains affect our history? How can cardinal and intermediate directions help us locate features of our country?</p>	
Tier II Words- High Frequency Multiple Meaning	Tier III Words- Subject/ Content Related Words
Location Shaped Major Directions Features Compare and Contrast	Rivers Landforms Latitude and Longitude Equator, Prime Meridian Mountain, Mountain Range
Assessments	
<p><b><u>Summative Assessment(s):</u></b></p> <p>United States Geography Test Blueprint and Key</p> <p>Grades 3- 5 Assessments may be administered via the AMP App in Schoology. Teachers should reach out to their Academic Coach or the district Social Studies Coordinator to upload</p>	

assessments to their Schoology Course.

Standards: All GSE for the unit.

\* Teachers can access the Test Blueprint and Key via the grade-level Schoology Group.

**Theme-Based Writing Task:**

Students will write a short story from the perspective of a mountain, river, or lines on the map explaining their location, importance, etc.

Standards: Student choice of the GSE element they wish to highlight in their narrative story.

**Teacher Resources:** These resources are intended to support teachers with background information and planning for instruction

[Parent Information Letter](#)- edit for school-specific information

[K-5 Map Collection](#): Maps are provided for all content and skills to support teaching and learning with integration of historic, political, and physical maps.

Click [here](#) for GADOE Content Video

[Teacher Notes](#) guide teachers in understanding the content for the unit.

Additional unit information may be found at [GA DoE Inspire](#)

Objective or Content	Learning Experiences	Differentiation Considerations
<b>SS3G1 Locates major topographical features on a physical map of the United States.</b> a. Locate major rivers of the United States of America: Mississippi, Ohio, io Grande, Colorado, Hudson, and St. Lawrence.	<a href="#">Musical Geography</a> Students identify the features of mountains and bodies of water.	Allow students to present their thoughts in other ways: using the talk-to-text/dictate feature, making an audio recording of their responses, drawing pictures, circling and/or labeling on their map, etc. Model how to record what they know or have students work with a partner
<b>SS3G1 Locates major topographical features on a physical map of the United States.</b> a. Locate major rivers of the United States of America: Mississippi, Ohio, Rio Grande, Colorado, Hudson, and St. Lawrence. b. Locate major mountain ranges of the United States of America: the Appalachian and Rocky.	<a href="#">Mountains and Rivers</a> Students will watch the video segments about mountains and rivers and summarize what they learned about mountains and rivers and how they are similar and different.	

<p><b>SS3G1 Locates major topographical features on a physical map of the United States.</b></p> <p>a. Locate major rivers of the United States of America: Mississippi, Ohio, io Grande, Colorado, Hudson, and St. Lawrence.</p>	<p><a href="#">Dueling Mountains</a> Students will investigate the features of the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains and complete a comparison graphic organizer.</p>	<p>Group students- provide pathfinders for resources; provide a paragraph frame for writing Allow students to highlight the information, Give students the organizer partially completed Provide a labeled map with a color key. Have students color the mountain ranges to match the key.</p>
<p><b>SS3G1 Locates major topographical features on a physical map of the United States.</b></p> <p>b. Locate major mountain ranges of the United States of America: Appalachian, Rocky.</p>	<p><a href="#">Six Rivers</a> Students will learn about the Six Major Rivers of the United States. Using the Geography Source Set they will complete the remaining information on the American Rivers Chart.</p>	<p>Flexible grouping Pathfinder or mark information for specifics, work independently, key word list. Consider reading research materials to students in small groups. Give students the organizer partially completed to lessen the amount of work, give students a “key” to copy.</p>
<p><b>SS3G1 Locates major topographical features on a physical map of the United States.</b></p> <p>a. Locate major rivers of the United States of America: Mississippi, Ohio, io Grande, Colorado, Hudson, and St. Lawrence.</p> <p>b. Locate major mountain ranges of the United States of America: Appalachian, Rocky.</p>	<p><a href="#">Rivers and Mountains Around the World</a> Video Read Aloud, <i>Water Land: Land and Water Forms Around the World</i> by Christy Hale. Students record information about each landform on the student document. When finished, they will compare a feature of their choice to one of the US mountain ranges or the six rivers.</p>	<p>Flexible grouping Provide a keyword list with synonyms, create a pathfinder or mark information for specifics Allow for independent work</p>
<p><b>SS3G2 Locate and describe the equator, prime meridian, and lines of latitude and longitude on a globe.</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Life on the Grid</a> Students learn about and utilize Map Grid Systems through a game, independent practice and creating their own maps.</p>	<p>Give students a pre-folded or pre-marked grid. Allow for partner work. Work with small groups to get started and/or monitor their progress as they locate objects/places</p>
<p><b>SS3G2 Locate and describe the equator, prime meridian, and lines of latitude and longitude on a globe.</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Follow those Lines</a> Locate and describe the lines of latitude and longitude</p>	
<p><b>SS3G1 Locate major topographical features on a physical map of the United States.</b></p> <p>a. Locate major rivers of the United States of America: Mississippi, Ohio, Rio Grande, Colorado, Hudson, and St. Lawrence.</p>	<p><a href="#">Map Our Learning</a> Review of concepts learned in the US Geography unit</p>	<p>Modifications of colors/or symbols may be necessary for students unable to identify colors. Allow students to write bulleted lists instead of paragraphs or write fewer sentences. Consider “interviewing” students to show what they know about maps. “Show me where to find...,Tell me what you know</p>

b. Locate major mountain ranges of the United States of America: Appalachian, Rocky. <b>SS3G2 Locate and describe the equator, prime meridian, and lines of latitude and longitude on a globe.</b>		about...”
<b>Recommended High Quality Complex Texts</b>		
<p><i>The Big Rivers: The Missouri, the Mississippi, and the Ohio</i> by Bruce Hiscock</p> <p><i>Longitude and Latitude</i> by Rebecca Olien</p> <p><i>Map Math: Learning about Latitude and Longitude Using Coordinate Systems</i> by Orli Zuravicky</p> <p><i>Henry’s Map</i> by David Elliot</p> <p><i>There’s a Map on My Lap</i> by Tish Rabe</p> <p><i>Follow That Map: A First Book of Mapping Skills</i> by Scot Ritchie</p> <p><i>Maps</i> by Aleksandra Mizielinska, Daniel Misielinska</p> <p><b>Discovery Education Videos:</b></p> <p><a href="#">US Rivers: How They Affect our Lives</a></p> <p><a href="#">Mountains</a></p> <p><a href="#">Map Skills</a> Segments for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</p> <p><a href="#">Different Types of Maps</a></p>		