



Social Studies Curriculum – Third Grade

Capital's social studies curriculum is aligned with state and national standards and addresses concepts in civics, economics, geography, and history. Students use tools such as maps, globes, timelines, charts and other geo-graphics to learn about various times and places in our world. Studying both primary and secondary resources such as artifacts, diaries, photographs, and newspaper accounts enables students to research topics, understand a variety of cultures and peoples, and analyze the causes and effects of events from the past to the present.

This year, your child will be focusing on the units listed below. The essential questions listed for each unit provide an overview of the main concepts that will be addressed in these units.

Unit: Citizens in A Global World

1. How can we use maps, globes, and other geographic tools to understand and describe the features of our world?
2. What are the rights, responsibilities, and privileges of being a citizen or an elected leader in the American democracy?
3. What are the purposes of government, now and in the past?
4. How is respect for others, their opinions, and their property a foundation of civil society in the United States?
5. How do people work together to accomplish goals?
6. What are some actions that citizens can take to influence public policy?

Unit: The First Americans

1. What are the similarities and differences in the ways humans in various places (regions) and times have adapted to and modified their environment to satisfy their wants and needs?
2. How did early contact between Native Americans and Europeans change life in America?
3. What are the similarities and differences in the homes, food, clothing, and culture of the various regional Native American groups in the past? How do these regional Native American groups compare to the Native Americans who lived in Delaware?
4. What are the similarities and differences in the geography, climate, and natural resources of the identified regions?

Unit: Exploring the World Around Us

1. What economic, political, and cultural factors led to the exploration and colonization of America?
2. How did explorers from France, England, The Netherlands, and Spain lead the way for the European colonization of North America?
3. What does it mean to explore and claim land?
4. What effect did these explorations have on the settlement and colonization of the New World?

For more information about your child's Social Studies curriculum, please contact your child's teacher or call the Curriculum Office at 672-1951.