

SOCIAL STUDIES

LENGTH OF TIME: one year

GRADE LEVEL: 3

COURSE STANDARDS:

Students will:

1. Describe various geographic regions of the U.S. (PA Std. 7.1, 7.2)
2. Compare and contrast lifestyles as influenced by the geography of three Native American groups. (PA Std. 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4)
3. Begin to analyze the economic and cultural effects of early settlers in the U.S. (PA Std. 8.1, 8.2, 8.3)

RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Geography

- 7.1 Basic Geographic Literacy
- 7.2 The Physical Characteristics of Places and Regions
- 7.3 The Human Characteristics of Places and Regions
- 7.4 The Interactions Between People and Places

History

- 8.1 Historical Analysis and Skills Development
- 8.2 Pennsylvania History
- 8.3 United States History

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS:

Students will demonstrate achievement of the standards by:

1. Preparing a diagram, model, or diorama of one of the regions of the United States. Include a locational map. Orally explain pertinent physical features. (Course Standard 1)
2. Developing a chart comparing the Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest, the desert Southwest, and the Plains. Emphasis should be placed on how the natural environment shaped the people's lives--culturally, ethnically, and in everyday living. A chart comparing the three groups will demonstrate understanding of geography's effect on the individual. (Course Standard 2)
3. Discussing needs and wants of early settlers and the cultural effects of early settlers. (Course Standard 3)

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Students will have the opportunity to become familiar with the characteristics and location of regions of the United States -- coastal environments, grasslands, deserts, forests, and mountains. A central focus will be the use of the land and the adaptation to the environment by Native Americans.

TITLES OF UNITS

1. Mapping Our Way
2. Looking at Different Communities
3. What do Communities Need?
4. Exploring the United States
5. Exploring North America
6. Exploring Other Continents

SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:

1. Writing
2. Small/large group activities
3. Cooperative learning
4. Research
5. Audio-visual presentations
6. Independent trade book reading

MATERIALS:

1. Nystrom Grade 3 Kit, People and Places Everywhere
2. Teacher's guide for text and ancillary materials
3. Trade books – If I Traveled in a Covered Wagon

METHODS OF ASSISTANCE AND ENRICHMENT:

1. Cooperative learning groups
2. Specialist assistance -- IST, learning support, PAL
3. Opportunities for retesting
4. Community volunteers
5. Guest speakers/field trips
6. Integrated units

PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT:

1. Native American chart comparing Native Americans of Northwest, Plains, and Southwest.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

1. Teacher-made and/or textbook tests
2. Teacher observation

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES:

1. Concepts
-demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts and principles
2. Communication
-participates in discussion of economic issues
-communicates effectively in written and oral work

3. Thinking/Problem Solving
 - analyze the elements needed for Native American chart
 - plan an environmental preservation activity
4. Application of Knowledge
 - create and use maps
5. Interpersonal Skills
 - work cooperatively with others on group projects
 - work effectively with others