



Social Studies

Grade 3

1st Nine Weeks



This academic overview can be used to monitor and support your child's at-home learning progress.

Unit 1: Geography

Student Learning Targets

- I can describe similarities and differences in physical environments including climate, landforms, natural resources and natural hazards.
- I can identify and compare how people adapt to or modify the physical environment in which they live such as deserts, mountains, wetlands, and plains.
- I can describe the effects of human processes such as building new homes, conservation, and pollution in shaping the landscape.
- I can use cardinal and intermediate directions to locate places on maps and globes in relation to the local community.

Questions to Check for Unit Understanding

- What is a characteristic of the physical environment in your local community? How is this similar to the physical characteristics on Texas or the United States?
- What are some ways that humans adapt to the the physical environment?
- How does modifying the physical environment change the environment?
- How can direction help us locate places on a map and a globe?

Key Academic Vocabulary

- Map-a drawing of the earth's surface on a flat paper
- Climate-a pattern of weather over time in a particular area
- Landforms-physical geographic features on the surface of the earth
- Adapt-making adjustments because of existing conditions
- Modify-modify changes to the existing conditions

Unit 2: Community

Student Learning Targets

- I can identify reasons people have formed communities, including a need for security and laws, religious freedom, and material well-being.
- I can compare ways in which people in the local community and other communities meet their needs for government, education, communication, transportation, and recreation.

Questions to Check for Unit Understanding

- Why do people create communities?
- How do communities meet people's need for government, education, communication, transportation and recreation?

Key Academic Vocabulary

- Community-a group of people who live in the same location and interact with each other, or share a common bond
- Government-the form or system of rule by which a state, community governed
- Transportation- ways to get and move around
- Recreation- a hobby, pastime, or agreeable exercise