

Loyalsock Township School District

Benchmarks: What Students Should Know and Be Able to Do

Social Studies

Topic: Welcome to Third Grade

Students will define the basic components of social studies, including civics and government, economics, geography, and history. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 7.1.3.A, 8.1.3.A, and 8.3.3.A.

Topic: Geographic Tools—Maps, Globes, Etc.

Students will identify the characteristics and purposes of maps and globes. Students will make a map using a title, compass rose, legend, scale, and grid system; and they will use cardinal and intermediate directions. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.3.3.E, 8.1.3.C, 8.2.3.C, and 8.3.3.C.

Topic: Basic World Geography

The students will distinguish between absolute and relative location and between meridians of longitude and parallels of latitude. The students will use the equator and prime meridian to locate and label the hemispheres and continents of the Earth and various countries and ancient civilizations. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.2.3.E, 6.1.3.A, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.2.3.A, 7.3.3.C, 7.3.3.E, 7.4.3.B, 8.2.3.A, 8.2.3.C, 8.3.3.C, and 8.4.3.D.

Topic: Geographic Overview of the United States and Pennsylvania

Students will distinguish between physical and political features on a map of the United States. Students will label a map of North America and identify countries, oceans, major rivers, the Great Lakes, and major mountain ranges. They will locate Pennsylvania and their local community and identify the surrounding states. Students will explain the idea of regions and label the major regions of the United States. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.2.3.A, 7.3.3.E, 8.2.3.A, 8.2.3.C, and 8.3.3.A.

Topic: Human and Physical Geographic Systems

Students will describe how climate affects vegetation and animal life and thus defines various regions. Students will explain how various ecosystems are described as communities. They will distinguish among wilderness, rural, suburban and urban environments and describe how humans change their environment to meet their needs. Students will use maps to illustrate patterns of human development. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 6.4.3.G, 6.5.3.F, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.2.3.A, 7.3.3.C, 7.3.3.E, 7.4.3.A, 8.1.3.C, 8.1.3.D, 8.2.3.C, 8.3.3.A, and 8.3.3.C.

Topic: Introduction to History (e.g., Prehistoric Era, Exploration Era, Colonization & Settlement, etc.)

Students will explain why history is important and distinguish between historic placement terms such as ancient, modern, prehistoric, contemporary and circa. Students will describe how history is examined in eras. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.1.3.C, 6.1.3.C, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 8.1.3.A, 8.1.3.B, 8.1.3.C, 8.1.3.D, 8.2.3.C, and 8.3.3.A.

Topic: American Indian Communities

Students will describe the community characteristics of the tribes of Pennsylvania and explain that native cultures in Pennsylvania and the whole country had similarities in gender roles, family organization, religion and values, and they had differences such as language, shelter, tools, foods and clothing. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.1.3.C, 6.3.3.B, 6.3.3.F, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.3.3.A, 7.3.3.B, 7.3.3.C, 7.4.3.B, 8.1.3.C, 8.1.3.D, 8.2.3.C, 8.2.3.D, 8.3.3.C, and 8.3.3.D.

Topic: Era of Exploration

Students will describe how trade led to the exploration of the world and that people explored and settled America and Pennsylvania for multiple reasons such as economic opportunity, religious opportunity, and to escape oppression. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.2.3.E, 5.1.3.C, 5.1.3.H, 5.2.3.A, 5.2.3.C, 5.2.3.G, 5.4.3.A, 5.4.3.B, 6.1.3.A, 6.1.3.C, 6.3.3.B, 6.3.3.F, 6.4.3.D, 6.4.3.G, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.3.3.A, 7.3.3.B, 7.3.3.C, 8.1.3.A, 8.1.3.B, 8.1.3.C, 8.1.3.D, 8.2.3.A, 8.2.3.C, 8.2.3.D, 8.3.3.C, 8.3.3.D, and 8.4.3.D.

Topic: Era of Settlement and Colonization

Students will describe the struggles and triumphs of the first permanent settlers in Pennsylvania and the role of specific communities in the development of the region. Students will distinguish how their early communities were alike and different compared to our modern communities. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.4.3.B, 6.1.3.A, 6.1.3.C, 6.4.3.D, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.2.3.A, 7.3.3.A, 7.3.3.B, 7.3.3.C, 7.3.3.D, 8.1.3.A, 8.1.3.B, 8.1.3.C, 8.1.3.D, 8.2.3.C, and 8.3.3.A.

Topic: Chronological Thinking and Historic Analysis

Students will explain the idea of chronology. Students will create and interpret a simple time line. Students will distinguish between various primary and secondary sources of history and realize that the perceptions of people and the passing of time influence accounts of historic events. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.2.3.E, 5.2.3.C, 5.4.3.B, 6.1.3.C, 6.2.3.A, 6.4.3.G, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.3.3.C, 8.1.3.A, 8.1.3.B, 8.1.3.C, 8.1.3.D, 8.2.3.A, 8.2.3.C, 8.2.3.D, 8.3.3.D, and 8.4.3.D.

Topic: Economics

Students will explain the idea of economy and how it revolves around the acquisition, development, distribution and consumption of natural, human and capital resources. Students will describe how people use resources to meet their needs and how the location of resources influences human activity. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 6.1.3.C, 6.2.3.E, 6.3.3.B, 6.3.3.C, 6.3.3.F, 6.4.3.B, 6.4.3.C, 6.4.3.D, 6.4.3.F, 6.4.3.G, 6.5.3.B, 6.5.3.C, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.3.3.B, 7.3.3.C, 7.4.3.B, 8.2.3.A, 8.2.3.C, 8.3.3.A, and 8.3.3.C.

Topic: Scarcity and Choice

Students will define scarcity of resources and explain the necessary choice of what to do with them. Students will describe opportunity costs as the value of the next best use of resources. Students will describe how scarcity affects their daily lives and emphasizes the benefits of personal spending and saving choices. Students will explain how people can conserve and replenish resources and highlight ways people have modified regional resources. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.4.3.C, 6.1.3.C, 6.2.3.F, 6.3.3.A, 6.3.3.B, 6.3.3.D, 6.3.3.E, 6.3.3.F, 6.4.3.B, 6.4.3.D, 6.4.3.G, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.3.3.A, 7.3.3.B, 7.3.3.C, 7.3.3.D, 7.3.3.E, 7.4.3.B, 8.2.3.B, 8.2.3.C, and 8.3.3.A.

Topic: Money and the Free Enterprise System

Students will describe the characteristics of money and how it makes trade/exchange of resources easier. Students will describe how a simple business operates in the free enterprise system in the United States and how both supply and demand affect the price of a good or service. Students will explain how the cost of production and selling affects profits. Students will analyze a simple budget for spending and saving and identify ways people save their income. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.4.3.C, 5.2.3.E, 5.1.3.J, 5.2.3.A, 5.2.3.C, 5.2.3.G, 5.3.3.H, 5.4.3.A, 5.4.3.B, 6.1.3.A, 6.1.3.B, 6.1.3.C, 6.2.3.A, 6.2.3.C, 6.2.3.E, 6.3.3.B, 6.3.3.F, 6.4.3.B, 6.4.3.C, 6.4.3.F, 6.4.3.G, 6.5.3.A, 6.5.3.B, 6.5.3.G, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.3.3.C, 7.3.3.D, 7.3.3.E, 8.1.3.C, 8.2.3.A, 8.2.3.B, 8.2.3.C, and 8.3.3.A.

Topic: Economic Interdependence

Students will explain how efficiency is improved by division of labor and how this, combined with scarcity of resources, creates interdependence not only between people within the same community or organization, but also between communities and regions of the world. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.4.3.C, 5.2.3.E, 5.2.3.C, 5.2.3.G, 5.3.3.H, 5.3.3.J, 6.1.3.B, 6.1.3.C, 6.2.3.E, 6.3.3.A, 6.3.3.B, 6.3.3.F, 6.4.3.B, 6.4.3.C, 6.4.3.D, 6.4.3.E, 6.4.3.F, 6.4.3.G, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.3.3.D, 7.4.3.B, 8.2.3.A, 8.2.3.C, 8.3.3.A, 8.3.3.C, and 8.4.3.D.

Topic: Ruling Documents / Foundations of Government

Students will explain the meaning and origin of the ideas and core democratic values expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the preamble and the Bill of Rights. Students will be expected to identify specific rights guaranteed to citizens by these documents. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.1.3.A, 5.1.3.C, 5.1.3.E, 5.1.3.F, 5.1.3.H, 5.1.3.I, 5.1.3.M, 5.2.3.B, 5.3.3.G, 5.3.3.K, 5.4.3.A, 5.4.3.B, 6.1.3.C, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.2.3.A, 7.3.3.C, 8.1.3.B, 8.2.3.C, 8.3.3.A, and 8.3.3.B.

Topic: Citizenship

Students will identify characteristics of good citizenship such as a belief in justice, truth, equality, and responsibility for the common good; the elements of fair play; the idea of treating others the way you want to be treated; and civic responsibility, including obeying laws, voting, and jury duty. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.2.3.D, 5.2.3.E, 5.2.3.F, 5.1.3.A, 5.1.3.B, 5.1.3.C, 5.1.3.I, 5.1.3.K, 5.2.3.A, 5.2.3.B, 5.2.3.C, 5.2.3.G, 5.3.3.C, 5.3.3.F, 5.3.3.G, 5.4.3.B, 6.2.3.I, 6.2.3.J, 6.4.3.G, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.3.3.B, 7.3.3.C, 8.1.3.C, 8.2.3.B, 8.3.3.A, 8.3.3.D, and 8.4.3.D.

Topic: Government Functions

Students understand the basic functions of local, state and national governments, the common services provided, and the way government is financed. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.2.3.D, 5.1.3.A, 5.1.3.C, 5.2.3.G, 5.3.3.A, 5.3.3.D, 5.3.3.E, 5.3.3.I, 5.3.3.K, 5.4.3.A, 5.4.3.B, 6.2.3.G, 6.2.3.H, 7.1.3.A, 7.3.3.E, 8.2.3.A, and 8.3.3.A.

Topic: Government Structure

Students will describe the powers of the three branches of government and explain the similarities among federal, state, and local governments and the way people choose their government officials. This topic compares democracies with other forms of government. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.1.3.A, 5.1.3.C, 5.1.3.I, 5.1.3.L, 5.3.3.A, 5.3.3.B, 5.3.3.D, 5.3.3.E, 5.3.3.K, 5.4.3.A, 5.4.3.B, 6.2.3.H, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 8.2.3.C, 8.2.3.D, 8.3.3.A, 8.3.3.C, 8.3.3.D, and 8.4.3.D

Topic: Important Symbols of U.S. and Pennsylvania Culture

Students will describe the importance of our national and state symbols, landmarks, songs, and holidays. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.1.3.C, 5.1.3.G, 5.1.3.K, 5.3.3.K, 5.4.3.A, 5.4.3.B, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 8.2.3.B, 8.3.3.A, and 8.3.3.B.

Topic: American Ideals

Students will explain the cultural importance of selected readings by Americans such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr. and George W. Bush. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.1.3.C, 5.1.3.J, 5.1.3.M, 5.2.3.A, 5.3.3.K, 5.4.3.A, 5.4.3.B, 6.4.3.D, 6.4.3.G, 7.1.3.A, 7.1.3.B, 7.3.3.C, 7.3.3.D, 8.1.3.A, 8.1.3.B, 8.1.3.C, 8.2.3.A, 8.3.3.A, and 8.3.3.B.

Topic: Communities and Culture

Students will describe the varied backgrounds of groups living in the United States and how we have become one nation. The lessons focus on the various components of culture, including language, belief systems, customs, folk tales, religions, food, dress, etc., and how these components vary from region to region. This topic addresses the following PA Academic Standards: 5.1.3.C, 5.4.3.A, 5.4.3.B, 6.1.3.A, 7.1.3.A, 7.3.3.A, 7.3.3.B, 8.2.3.A, and 8.2.3.C.