

Galway Social Studies Curriculum Guide **3rd Grade**

Grade 3: Communities Around the World—Learning About People and Places

In the grade 3 social studies program, students study about communities throughout the world. The five social studies standards form the basis for this investigation as students learn about the social, political, geographic, economic, and historic characteristics of different world communities. Students learn about communities that reflect the diversity of the world's peoples and cultures. They study Western and non-Western examples from a variety of geographic areas. Students also begin to learn about historic chronology by placing important events on timelines. Students locate world communities and learn how different communities meet their basic needs and wants. Students begin to compare the roles of citizenship and the kinds of governments found in various world communities.

Cultures and civilizations

- What is a culture? What is a civilization?
- How and why do cultures change?
- Where do people settle and live? Why?
- People in world communities exchange elements of their cultures.
- People in world communities use legends, folktales, oral histories, biographies, autobiographies, and historical narratives to transmit values, ideas, beliefs, and traditions.
- People in world communities celebrate their accomplishments, achievements, and contributions.
- Historic events can be viewed through the eyes of those who were there, as shown in their art, writings, music, and artifacts.

Communities around the world

- People of similar and different cultural groups often live together in world communities.
- World communities have social, political, economic, and cultural similarities and differences.
- World communities change over time.
- Important events and eras of the near and distant past can be displayed on timelines.
- Calendar time can be measured in terms of years, decades, centuries, and millennia, using BC and AD as reference points.
- All people in world communities need to learn and they learn in different ways.
- Families in world communities differ from place to place.

The location of world communities

- World communities can be located on maps and globes (latitude and longitude).
- The spatial relationships of world communities can be described by direction, location, distance, and scale.
- Regions represent areas of Earth's surface with unifying geographic characteristics.
- World communities can be located in relation to each other and to principal parallels and meridians.
- Geographic representations such as aerial photographs and satellite-produced images can be used to locate world communities.
- Earth's continents and oceans can be located in relation to each other and to principal parallels and meridians.

Physical, human, and cultural characteristics of world communities

- The causes and effects of human migration vary in different world regions.
- The physical, human, and cultural characteristics of different regions and people throughout the world are different.
- Interactions between economic activities and geographic factors differ in world communities.
- The factors that influence human settlements differ in world communities.

People depending on and modifying their physical environments

- People living in world communities depend on and modify their physical environments in different ways.
- Lifestyles in world communities are influenced by environmental and geographic factors.
- The development of world communities is influenced by environmental and geographic factors.

Challenge of meeting needs and wants in world communities

- Societies organize their economies to answer three fundamental economic questions: What goods and services should be produced and in what quantities? How shall goods and services be produced? For whom shall goods and services be produced?
- Human needs and wants differ from place to place.
- People in world communities make choices due to unlimited needs and wants and limited resources.
- People in world communities must depend on others to meet their needs and wants.
- Production, distribution, exchange, and consumption of goods and services are economic decisions all societies must make.
- People in world communities use human, capital, and natural resources.

Based on NYS Social Studies Core Curriculum Content Understandings. Prepared spring 2008.

- People in world communities locate, develop, and make use of natural resources.
- Resources are important to economic growth in world communities.

Economic decision making in world communities

- Production, distribution, exchange, and consumption of goods and services are economic decisions which all world communities must make.
- Economic decisions in world communities are influenced by many factors.

Symbols of citizenship in world communities

- People in world communities celebrate various holidays and festivals.
- People in world communities use monuments and memorials to represent symbols of their nations.

People making and changing rules and laws

- People in world communities form governments to develop rules and laws to govern community members.
- People in world communities may have conflicts over rules, rights, and responsibilities.
- The processes of selecting leaders, solving problems, and making decisions differ in world communities.

Governments around the world

- Governments in world communities organize to provide functions people cannot provide as individuals.
- Governments in world communities have the authority to make, carry out, and enforce laws and manage disputes among them.
- Governments in world communities develop rules and laws.
- Governments in world communities plan, organize, and make decisions.