

**New Paltz Central School District  
Social Studies  
Third Grade**

Time	Essential Questions/Content	Skills	Assessments
September – October	<p><b><u>Unit 1: Maps/Climates/Regions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does geography affect how and where people live?</li> <li>• How does a map help us find where we are and/or where we are going?</li> <li>• What is the purpose of this map?</li> </ul> <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps and diagrams serve as representations of places, physical features, and objects</li> <li>• The spatial relationships of world communities can be described by direction and location</li> <li>• Geographic representations such as aerial photographs and satellite-produced images are types of maps that can be used to locate world communities</li> <li>• Regions represent areas of Earth’s surface with unifying geographic characteristics</li> <li>• The roots of American culture, its development from many traditions, and ways many people from a variety of groups and backgrounds played a role in creating it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify continents and oceans</li> <li>• Locate places on maps and globes using a compass rose and intermediate cardinal directions (N, S, E, W, NE, NW, SE, SW)</li> <li>• Identify cause and effect (in terms of geography)</li> <li>• Identify basic needs</li> <li>• Locate countries related to third grade curriculum (Asian, African, and Latin)</li> <li>• Identify the thirteen colonies on a United States map and begin to explore how maps of the United States changed over time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quizzes</li> </ul>

**New Paltz Central School District  
Social Studies  
Third Grade**

Time	Essential Questions/Content	Skills	Assessments
<b>October – November</b>	<p><b><u>Unit 2: Government and American Culture</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is government?</li> <li>• Why do people have governments?</li> <li>• What are the important aspects of American culture?</li> </ul> <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People in world communities form governments to develop rules and laws to govern community members</li> <li>• People in world communities may have conflicts over rules, rights, and responsibilities</li> <li>• The processes of selecting leaders, solving problems, and making decisions differ in world communities</li> <li>• Governments in world communities organize to provide functions people cannot provide as individuals</li> <li>• Governments in world communities have the authority to make, carry out, and enforce laws and manage disputes among them</li> <li>• Governments in world communities develop rules and laws</li> <li>• Governments in world communities plan, organize, and make decisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the rules and responsibilities of citizenship</li> <li>• Explain the need for government (and rules)</li> <li>• Identify national holidays, celebrations, and symbols</li> <li>• Describe functions provided by government that people cannot provide for themselves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit assessment</li> </ul>

**New Paltz Central School District  
Social Studies  
Third Grade**

Time	Essential Questions/Content	Skills	Assessments
<b>November – December</b>	<p><b><u>Unit 3: Australia</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the important aspects of this culture?</li> <li>• How is this culture affected by geography?</li> <li>• How do people in this culture depend on and modify their environment?</li> <li>• How is this world community interdependent with other world communities?</li> </ul> <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is a culture? What is a civilization?</li> <li>• How and why do cultures change?</li> <li>• Where do people settle and live? Why?</li> <li>• People in world communities exchange elements of their cultures</li> <li>• People in world communities use legends, folktales, oral histories, biographies, autobiographies, and historical narratives to transmit values, ideas, beliefs, and traditions</li> <li>• People in world communities celebrate their accomplishments, achievements, and contributions</li> <li>• Historic events can be viewed through the eyes of those who were there, as shown in their art, writings, music, and artifacts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a PowerPoint presentation (insert a picture and text box, change font color and size, and basics of slide design/transition)</li> <li>• Identify and compare the physical, human, and cultural characteristics of different regions and people</li> <li>• Investigate how people depend on and modify the physical environment</li> <li>• Ask geographic questions about where places are located; why they are located where they are; what is important about their locations; and how their locations are related to the location of other people and places</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PowerPoint presentation on culture, geography, and comparison to US culture</li> </ul>

**New Paltz Central School District  
Social Studies  
Third Grade**

Time	Essential Questions/Content	Skills	Assessments
<p><b>January – June</b></p>	<p><b><u>Unit 4: Asian Cultures</u></b>  <b><u>Unit 5: Latin Cultures</u></b>  <b><u>Unit 6: African Cultures</u></b>            (These units can be taught in any order, at the discretion of the classroom teacher. The essential questions are the same for each unit.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the important aspects of this culture?</li> <li>• How is this culture affected by geography?</li> <li>• How do people in this culture depend on and modify their environment?</li> <li>• How is this world community interdependent with other world communities?</li> </ul> <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beliefs, customs, and traditions in world communities are learned from others and may differ from place to place</li> <li>• Different events, people, problems, and ideas make up world communities</li> <li>• People in world communities may have different interpretations and perspectives about important issues and historic events</li> <li>• The physical, human, and cultural characteristics of different regions and peoples throughout the world are different</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use note taking for research</li> <li>• Develop PowerPoint presentations (Latin and African Cultures units)</li> <li>• Write an essay on culture, including a comparison (Asian Culture unit)</li> <li>• Identify and compare the physical, human, and cultural characteristics of different regions and peoples</li> <li>• Investigate how people depend on and modify the physical environment</li> <li>• Ask geographic questions about where places are located; why they are located where they are; what is important about their locations; and how their locations are related to the location of other people and places</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PowerPoint presentations (Latin and African cultures units)</li> <li>• Essay on Asian culture</li> </ul>

**New Paltz Central School District  
Social Studies  
Third Grade**

<b>Time</b>	<b><u>Essential Questions/Content</u></b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Assessments</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interactions between economic activities and geographic factors differ in world communities</li> <li>• The factors that influence human settlements differ in world communities</li> <li>• People living in world communities depend on and modify their physical environments in different ways</li> <li>• Lifestyles in world communities are influenced by environmental and geographic factors</li> <li>• The development of world communities is influenced by environmental and geographic factors</li> <li>• Human needs and wants differ from place to place</li> <li>• Resources are important to economic growth in world communities</li> <li>• People in world communities celebrate various holidays and festivals</li> <li>• People in world communities use monuments and memorials to represent symbols of their nations</li> </ul>		