



SOCIAL STUDIES

3

FOR FAMILIES

THIRD GRADE

What to expect:

Students at this age are growing more independent and are learning more complex material. Third-graders are beginning to apply skills from earlier grades to learn about their state. Their social studies focus this year will be on Oklahoma's natural resources, local and state governments, important economic activities and the cultures that have settled in the state. This information is a snapshot of learning in third-grade social studies. For a complete set of social studies academic standards, click [here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Know the most important elected leaders of Oklahoma.
- Describe the historical importance of Oklahoma's state seal and flag.
- Understand how the development of Oklahoma's major economic activities (including oil and gas, agriculture and livestock, aviation, tourism, tribal enterprises and the military) have contributed to the growth of the state.
- Be able to identify and locate Oklahoma's major landforms, bodies of water and cities on a map.
- Describe the cultures of the American Indian tribes and nations living in present-day Oklahoma.
- Explain how the weather and environment affect the economy of Oklahoma.
- Be able to identify state and local landmarks (the State Capitol building, for example) and contributions of notable Oklahomans including Will Rogers, Wilma Mankiller, Ralph Ellison, etc.
- Understand that tribal governments have the right to self-government called sovereignty.

What to do at home:

- Be sure your child knows the names of your mayor, local state representative, state senator and city officials.
- Visit the State Capitol or local government offices.
- Visit local businesses important to your community such as the bank, hospital, etc.
- Visit local landforms and bodies of water.
- Visit local landmarks, museums, festivals or other community celebrations.
- Read books about Oklahoma or biographies about famous Oklahomans.
- Celebrate Oklahoma's birthday on November 16.

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support social studies learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity helps students be successful in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to develop curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- If you could grow up to be famous, what would you want to be famous for and why?
- If you could give \$100 to a charity, which one would you choose and why?
- If you could make a photo book of Oklahoma, what pictures would you include and why?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't always have the answer. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What food would be served at your favorite meal?
- How did you show kindness to someone today?
- What is your favorite outdoor activity to do with family or friends?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by letting your child see you reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help your child understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- What made you pick this book?
- How is this book like another one you have read or a movie you have seen?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- What has happened so far in the story?
- What pictures do you see in your mind as you read?
- What words can I help you understand?

AFTER READING

- What was the most important event in the story? Why?
- What lesson do you think the author might want the reader to learn? What makes you think that?
- If you could give this book a different title, what would it be? Why?

Join the conversation!

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