

Third Grade Curriculum

Reading

- Use a variety of word identification strategies to acquire new vocabulary
- Identify new words using decoding and structural cues, such as prefixes, suffixes, and derivational endings
- Identify synonyms, antonyms, and multi-meaning words
- Demonstrate character's point of view through role play, interviewing, and asking questions
- Predict outcomes
- Draw conclusions
- Identify cause and effect
- Identify and explain inferences
- Create a story map to demonstrate understanding of sequence
- Acquire information from nonfiction resources
- Paraphrase and summarize text
- Identify characters, settings, events, problems and solutions in a story
- Compare and contrast story elements
- Analyze literary elements of narrative text
- Monitor personal comprehension by rereading, using reference aids, and asking questions to clarify and seek information
- Independently select a variety of genres, including fiction, nonfiction, articles and multicultural sources
- Read orally from familiar text with accuracy, expression, appropriate phrasing, and attention to punctuation, rate, and fluency
- Adjust reading rate according to the purpose for reading
- Read silently for increasing periods of time

Listening/Speaking

- Listen to gather information, solve problems, and appreciate literature
- Identify rhymes, repeated sounds, and onomatopoeia
- Listen and follow directions
- Interpret a speaker's message (verbal and nonverbal) for purpose and perspective
- Respond to others in a group discussion by paraphrasing the comments of others, asking questions, and demonstrating patience while listening
- Monitor understanding of the spoken message and seek clarification as needed
- Gain increasing control of grammar, such as subject-verb agreement, complete sentences, and correct tense usage
- Compare language and oral traditions (family stories) that reflect customs, regions, and cultures

Writing

- Write legibly using cursive script
- Write to record ideas and reflections for a variety of audiences
- Write for a variety of purposes, such as lists, letters, stories, poems, book reports, and journals
- Practice narrative, expository, and persuasive writing
- Generate ideas for compositions
- Develop, revise, and edit compositions using established criteria
- Use increasingly complex capitalization, punctuation, and spelling
- Use singular and plural nouns, pronouns, subject/verb agreement, verb tenses, and singular and plural possessives correctly
- Choose more precise words to create vivid images
- Edit a paragraph for cohesiveness, theme, and sequence of ideas
- Edit drafts for spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and usage

- Use resources such as a dictionary to edit written words
- Evaluate compositions using assigned and established criteria
- Identify the most effective features of a piece of writing using criteria generated by the teacher and class
- Use graphic organizers
- Compile notes into outlines, reports, and summaries
- Use available technology for word processing, spell checking, and printing
- Compile a portfolio of writing samples
- Apply alphabetization skills to use guide words

Math

Number, Operations, and Quantitative Reasoning

- Read, write, compare, and order whole numbers to 999,999
- Determine the value of a collection of coins and bills
- Name fractional parts of a whole or set
- Construct models of equivalent fractions
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers
- Round to nearest ten or hundred
- Estimate sums and differences

Patterns, Functions and Algebraic Thinking

- Use patterns to make predictions and solve problems
- Identify patterns in multiplication and division
- Generate a table of paired numbers

Geometry and Spatial Reasoning

- Identify, describe, and classify 2D and 3D shapes
- Identify congruent shapes
- Create and identify lines of symmetry
- Locate and name whole numbers and fractions on a number line

Measurement

- Estimate and measure length using metric and customary units
- Find the perimeter, area, and /or volume of a shape
- Measure temperature to solve problems
- Tell and write time using analog and digital clocks

Probability and Statistics

- Collect, organize, record, and display data for pictographs, bar graphs, and line graphs
- Interpret data from graphs

Problem Solving

- Identify mathematics in everyday situations
- Use a problem solving model
- Justify reasonableness
- Use tools such as real objects

Social Studies

History

- Identify reasons people formed communities
- Describe how individuals, events, and ideas have shaped communities over time
- Compare ways people in communities meet their needs in the past and present
- Create and interpret timelines
- Describe historical times in terms of years, decades, and centuries

Explain causes and effects of European exploration on the colonization of Texas and the Western Hemisphere

Describe important issues, events, and individuals of the 20th and 21st centuries in Texas

Identify scientists and inventors who have created new technology

Explain the impact of new technology on communities around the world

Geography

Compare how people in different communities adapt to or modify variations in the physical environment

Use cardinal and intermediate directions, scale, compass rose, grid, and symbols to locate places and interpret maps and globes

Identify lines of latitude and longitude

Identify and describe the Equator and the Grand Meridian

Economics

Identify ways of earning, spending, and saving money

Define scarcity and give examples of its impact on goods and services and on interdependence within and among communities

Explain how supply and demand affects price and how cost of production and selling price affect profits

Identify how Texas, the United States, and the world are economically interdependent

Government/Citizenship

Describe the basic structure of local government

Identify local government officials and explain how they are chosen

Identify services commonly provided by local governments and explain how they are financed

Identify and explain the three branches of government

Identify characteristics of good citizenship

Identify historic figures and ordinary people who exemplify good citizenship

Identify organizations that serve the needs of the community

Explain the importance of civic participation

Give examples of actions people can take to improve the community

Culture

Explain the significance of ethnic and/or cultural celebrations in the state, nation, and world

Retell the heroic deeds of real and fictional heroes who have helped to shape the culture of communities

Identify selected writers and artists whose works exemplify the cultural heritage of communities around the world

Social Studies Skills

Apply critical thinking skills

Communicate effectively

Use problem-solving and decision-making processes

Use computer technology to find information, disseminate materials, and create presentations on a given topic

Science

Change

Measure and record changes in the position and direction of the motion of an object to which a force such as a push or pull is applied

Identify that the surface of the earth can be changed by forces such as earthquakes or glaciers

Living Organisms and Nonliving Objects

Observe and describe the habitats of organisms within an ecosystem

Observe and identify organisms with similar needs that compete with one another for resources such as oxygen, water, food, or space

Describe environmental changes in which some organisms would thrive, become ill, or perish

Describe how organisms modify their physical environment to meet their needs

Identify some inherited traits of plants and animals

Processes of the Natural World

Identify and describe the importance of earth materials including rocks, soil, water, and gases of the atmosphere in the local area and classify them as renewable, nonrenewable, or inexhaustible resources

Identify and record properties of soils such as color, texture, capacity to retain water, and ability to support the growth of plants

Identify the planets in our solar system and their position in relation to the sun

Describe the characteristics of the sun

Describe the water cycle

Adaptations

Observe and identify characteristics among species that allow each to survive and reproduce

Analyze how adaptive characteristics help individuals within a species to survive and reproduce

Compare adaptive characteristics of species

Identify the kinds of species that lived in the past and compare them to existing species

Explore and predict adaptations

Scientific Investigation and Research

Demonstrate safe, environmentally-appropriate and ethical practices during field and laboratory investigations

Make wise choices in the use and conservation of resources and the disposal or recycling of materials

Use safety equipment as appropriate

Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking

Plan and implement descriptive investigations including asking well-defined questions, formulating testable hypotheses, and selecting and using equipment and technology

Collect information by observing and measuring

Analyze and interpret information to construct reasonable explanations from direct and indirect evidence

Communicate conclusions supported by data

Construct simple graphs, tables, maps, models, and charts to organize, examine, and evaluate information

Analyze, review, and critique scientific explanations including hypotheses and theories as to their strengths and weaknesses using scientific evidence and information

Draw inferences based on information related to promotional materials for products and services

Represent the natural world using models and identify limitations such as a terrarium and aquarium

Collect and analyze information using tools including calculators, microscopes, cameras, safety goggles, sound recorders, clocks, computers, thermometers, hand lenses, meter sticks, rulers, balances, magnets, and compasses

Demonstrate that repeat investigations may increase the reliability of results

Properties, Patterns, and Systems

Observe and identify simple systems and describe the role of various parts

Identify and describe the roles of some organisms in living systems

Predict and draw conclusions about what happens when part of a system is removed

Physical Science

Gather information including temperature, magnetism, hardness, and mass

Identify matter as liquids, solids, and gases