



St. Mel's Catholic School

HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE STANDARDS

Grade Three

Continuity and Change

Students in grade three learn more about our connections to the past and the ways in which particularly local, but also regional and national, government and traditions have developed and left their marks of current society, providing common memories.

Emphasis is on the physical and cultural landscape of California, including the study of American Indians, the subsequent arrival of immigrants and the impact they have had in forming the character of our contemporary society.

3.1 Students describe the physical and human characteristics of place and use contemporary maps, tables, graphs, photos, and charts to organize information about people, places and environments in a spatial context by:

1. Identifying geographical features found in their local region (e.g., deserts, mountains, valleys, hills, coastal areas, oceans, lakes).
2. Tracing the ways in which people have used the resources of the local region and modified the physical environment (e.g., a dam constructed upstream changed a river or coastline).

3.2 Students describe the American Indian nations in their local region long ago in the recent past, in terms of:

1. The national identities, religious beliefs, customs, and various folklore traditions.
2. How physical geography including climate influenced the way that local Indian nation(s) adapted to their natural environment (e.g., how they obtained their food, clothing, tools).
3. The economy and systems of government, particularly those with tribal constitutions
4. The interaction of new settlers with the already established Indians of the region.

3.3 Students draw from historical and community resources to organize the sequence of events in local history and describe how each period of settlement left its mark on the land, in terms of:

1. The explorers who visited here, the newcomers who settled here, and the people who continue to come to the region, including the cultural and religious traditions of the different groups.
2. The economies established by settlers and their influence on the present day economy, with emphasis on the importance of private property and entrepreneurship.
3. Why their community was established, how individuals and families contributed to its founding and development, and how the community has changed over time, drawing upon primary sources (e.g., maps, photographs, oral histories, letters, newspapers).

3.4 Students understand the role of rules and laws in our daily lives, and the basic structure of the United States government, in terms of:

1. Why we have rules, laws, and the U.S. Constitution; the role of citizenship in promoting rules and laws; the consequences for violating rules and laws.



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2. The important of public virtue and the role of citizens, including how to participate in a classroom, community and in civic life.
3. The stories behind important local and national landmarks, and the essential documents that create a sense of community among citizens and exemplify cherished ideals (e.g., the U.S. flag, the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty, the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Capitol).
4. The three branches of government (with an emphasis on local government).
5. How California, the other states, and sovereign tribes combine to make the nation and participate in the federal system.
6. The lives of American heroes who took risks to secure freedoms (e.g., biographies of Martin Luther King Jr., Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman).

3.5 Students demonstrate basic economic reasoning skills and an understanding of the economy of the local region. In terms of:

1. How local producers have used natural resources, human resources and capital resources to produce goods and services in the past and present.
2. How some things are made locally, some elsewhere in the U.S., and some abroad.
3. How individual economic choices involve tradeoffs and the evaluation of benefits and costs.