

**Social Studies Grade 3 Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)**  
**World Geography and Cultures**

<b>Reporting Category</b>	<b>Below Basic</b>	<b>Basic</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Advanced</b>
<b>Generic Descriptors</b>	Students who perform at this level have not demonstrated mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and applications of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skill specified by the grade- and course-level content standards and are not prepared for the next level of study.	Students who perform at this level demonstrate partial mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and applications of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skill specified by the grade- and course-level content standards and are minimally prepared for the next level of study.	Students who perform at this level demonstrate mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and applications of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skill specified by the grade- and course-level content standards and are prepared for the next level of study.	Students who perform at this level demonstrate superior mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and applications of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skill specified by the grade- and course-level content standards and are significantly prepared for the next level of study.
<b>Geography</b>	A student at this level demonstrates little to no mastery identifying geographic locations or comprehending geographic ideas. The student does not show a basic understanding of geography, and his or her academic performance does not yet reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards. Students at the Below Basic level of performance are not prepared for the next level of study.	A student at this level demonstrates partial mastery by identifying and describing the various aspects of geography below the proficient level and at a consistently low depth of knowledge (DOK). The student can identify and recall geographic details, describe and explain different characteristics of the physical environment, understand basic concepts of human geography, and use various geographic tools (e.g., compass rose, map, map key). Students who achieve this basic level of academic	A student at this level demonstrates mastery by describing and comprehending the various aspects of geography at the proficient level and at a consistently moderate to occasionally high depth of knowledge (DOK). The student can organize and understand geographical information, understand basic relationships between people and their environment, and draw basic conclusions about geographic relationships and concepts. The student displays a clear ability for applying map skills	A student at this level demonstrates superior mastery by understanding and applying information and explaining the various aspects of geography beyond the proficient level and at a consistently higher depth of knowledge (DOK). The student demonstrates the additional skills necessary to use geographic tools and understand geographic terminology; draw more advanced conclusions about physical geography and human interaction with the environment; and apply knowledge of social,

		<p>performance, thinking ability, and application of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards are minimally prepared for the next level of study.</p>	<p>and analyzing primary and secondary sources to examine major physical and political features of the world and to summarize human interaction with the environment. Students who achieve this level of academic performance, thinking ability, and application of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards are prepared for the next level of study.</p>	<p>economic, political, and cultural patterns related to the environment. Students who achieve this superior level of academic performance, thinking ability, and application of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards are well prepared for the next level of study.</p>
<p><b>Western Hemisphere</b></p>	<p>A student at this level demonstrates little to no mastery identifying geographic locations or comprehending geographic ideas. The student does not show a basic geographic understanding of the Western Hemisphere, and his or her academic performance does not yet reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards. Students at the Below Basic level of performance are not prepared for the next level of study.</p>	<p>A student at this level demonstrates partial mastery by identifying and describing the various geographic aspects of the Western Hemisphere below the proficient level and at a consistently low depth of knowledge (DOK). The student can identify and recall geographic details, describe and explain different characteristics of the physical environment, understand basic concepts of human geography, and use various geographic tools (e.g., compass rose, map, map key). Students who achieve this basic level of academic</p>	<p>A student at this level demonstrates mastery by describing and comprehending the various aspects of the Western Hemisphere at the proficient level and at a consistently moderate to occasionally high depth of knowledge (DOK). The student can organize and understand geographical information, understand basic relationships between people and their environment, and draw basic conclusions about geographic relationships and concepts. The student displays a clear ability for evaluating the major components of the</p>	<p>A student at this level demonstrates superior mastery by understanding and applying information and explaining the various geographic aspects of the Western Hemisphere beyond the proficient level and at a consistently higher depth of knowledge (DOK). The student demonstrates the additional skills necessary to use geographic tools and understand geographic terminology; draw more advanced conclusions about physical geography and human interaction with the environment; and apply knowledge of social,</p>

		<p>performance, thinking ability, and application of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards are minimally prepared for the next level of study.</p>	<p>Western Hemisphere cultures, governments, history, geography, and economics through the use of primary and secondary sources (e.g., timelines, graphs, charts, maps). Students who achieve this level of academic performance, thinking ability, and application of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards are prepared for the next level of study.</p>	<p>economic, political, and cultural patterns related to the environment. Students who achieve this superior level of academic performance, thinking ability, and application of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards are well prepared for the next level of study.</p>
<p><b>Eastern Hemisphere</b></p>	<p>A student at this level demonstrates little to no mastery identifying geographic locations or comprehending geographic ideas. The student does not show a basic geographic understanding of the Eastern Hemisphere, and his or her academic performance does not yet reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards. Students at the Below Basic level of performance are not prepared for the next level</p>	<p>A student at this level demonstrates partial mastery by identifying and describing the various geographic aspects of the Eastern Hemisphere below the proficient level and at a consistently low depth of knowledge (DOK). The student can identify and recall geographic details, describe and explain different characteristics of the physical environment, understand basic concepts of human geography, and use various geographic tools ( e.g., compass rose, map, map key).</p>	<p>A student at this level demonstrates mastery by describing and comprehending the various aspects of the Eastern Hemisphere at the proficient level and at a consistently moderate to occasionally high depth of knowledge (DOK). The student can organize and understand geographical information, understand basic relationships between people and their environment, and draw basic conclusions about geographic relationships and concepts. The student displays a clear</p>	<p>A student at this level demonstrates superior mastery by understanding and applying information and explaining the various geographic aspects of the Eastern Hemisphere beyond the proficient level and at a consistently higher depth of knowledge (DOK). The student demonstrates the additional skills necessary to use geographic tools and understand geographic terminology; draw more advanced conclusions about physical geography and human interaction with the</p>

	of study.	Students who achieve this basic level of academic performance, thinking ability, and application of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards are minimally prepared for the next level of study.	ability for evaluating the major components of the Eastern Hemisphere cultures, governments, history, geography, and economics through the use of primary and secondary sources (e.g., timelines, graphs, charts, maps). Students who achieve this level of academic performance, thinking ability, and application of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards are prepared for the next level of study.	environment; and apply knowledge of social, economic, political, and cultural patterns related to the environment. Students who achieve this superior level of academic performance, thinking ability, and application of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards are well prepared for the next level of study.
<b>Antarctica</b>	A student at this level demonstrates little to no mastery identifying geographic locations or comprehending geographic ideas. The student does not show a basic geographic understanding of Antarctica, and his or her academic performance does not yet reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards. Students at the Below Basic level of	A student at this level demonstrates partial mastery by identifying and describing the various geographic aspects of Antarctica below the proficient level and at a consistently low depth of knowledge (DOK). The student can identify and recall geographic details, describe and explain different characteristics of the physical environment, understand basic concepts of human geography, and use various geographic tools ( e.g.,	A student at this level demonstrates mastery by describing and comprehending the various aspects of Antarctica at the proficient level and at a consistently moderate to occasionally high depth of knowledge (DOK). The student can organize and understand geographical information, understand basic relationships between people and their environment, and draw basic conclusions about geographic relationships and	A student at this level demonstrates superior mastery by understanding and applying information and explaining the various geographic aspects of Antarctica beyond the proficient level and at a consistently higher depth of knowledge (DOK). The student demonstrates the additional skills necessary to use geographic tools and understand geographic terminology; draw more advanced conclusions about

	<p>performance are not prepared for the next level of study.</p>	<p>compass rose, map, map key). Students who achieve this basic level of academic performance, thinking ability, and application of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards are minimally prepared for the next level of study.</p>	<p>concepts. The student displays a clear ability for utilizing timelines and historical passages to summarize the history of Antarctica and the impact of people on the environment. Students who achieve this level of academic performance, thinking ability, and application of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards are prepared for the next level of study.</p>	<p>physical geography and human interaction with the environment; and apply knowledge of social, economic, political, and cultural patterns related to the environment. Students who achieve this superior level of academic performance, thinking ability, and application of understanding that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade- and course-level content standards are well prepared for the next level of study.</p>
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