

Grade 3 Social Studies Achievement Level Descriptors

The Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) describe the knowledge, skills, and cognitive processes that students should exhibit with relative consistency and accuracy in a variety of contexts. Some deviations or exceptions may be observed.

		Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
	General Social Studies Descriptors	Students at the Approaching Basic level demonstrate a limited understanding of the content and concepts of history, civics, geography, and economics of Louisiana.	Students at the Basic level demonstrate a general understanding of the content and concepts of history, civics, geography, and economics of Louisiana.	Students at the Mastery level demonstrate a strong understanding of the content and concepts of history, civics, geography, and economics of Louisiana.	Students at the Advanced level demonstrate a thorough understanding of the content and concepts of history, civics, geography, and economics of Louisiana.
	Category	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
	Claims and Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and express flawed claims that provide vague explanations of connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place. Use little or no evidence from the sources and limited knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts. Rely on either knowledge from the course or information provided in the sources to make vague or incomplete connections among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and express reasonable claims while providing inconsistent or incomplete explanations of connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place. Use disconnected evidence from the sources and general knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts. Use knowledge from the course and information provided in the sources to make obvious connections among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and clearly express logical claims that provide consistent and complete explanations of the connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place. Use appropriate evidence from the sources and strong knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts. Integrate knowledge from the course and information provided in the sources to make reasoned and informed connections that show the relationships among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and effectively express valid claims that provide cohesive and in-depth explanations of the connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place. Use well-chosen evidence from the sources and thorough knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts. Synthesize knowledge from the course and information provided in the sources to make sophisticated connections that show the interrelationships among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).

Sample Content Connections	Category	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
<p>Louisiana’s geography influenced historical patterns of settlement in the state.</p> <p>Exploration and migration to Louisiana influenced the economic development of the state</p> <p>Louisiana’s natural resources contribute to the state’s economic success.</p> <p>Louisiana’s citizens can use their jobs to solve local issues.</p>	History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read a timeline to identify important events in the history of Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a timeline to identify important events in the history of Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create timelines that identify important events in the history of Louisiana 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how technology has changed over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how technology has changed family life in Louisiana over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how technology has changed family and community life in Louisiana over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how technology has changed family and community life in Louisiana over time.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify state and national historical symbols. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe state and national historical symbols. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and contrast state and national historical symbols. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify cultural groups in Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe cultural groups in Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the influence of cultural groups in Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and contrast the influence of cultural groups in Louisiana.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify historical artifacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify community and regional artifacts, including primary sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify community and regional historical artifacts, including primary sources, to answer historical questions. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify various types of maps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the uses of various types of maps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe characteristics and uses of various types of maps. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize major explorers in Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify major explorers and their contributions to Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how major explorers and leaders contributed to early development of Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how major explorers and leaders contributed to the early development of Louisiana.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Native American cultures from Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe early Native American cultures of Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiate between cultures of the early Native American people that lived in various regions of Louisiana. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show an understanding of the concept of migration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify causes of migration to Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the effects of migration on Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the causes and effects of migration on Louisiana.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize cultural elements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify cultural elements of Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify cultural elements that have contributed to the state’s heritage. 	
	Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the hemispheres in which Louisiana is located. 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate specific places on a map using a simple grid system. 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate major geographic features of Louisiana on a map. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate and label major geographic features of Louisiana on a map. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the difference between a town, parish, state, and country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the difference between a town, parish, state, and country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiate between a town, parish, state, and country in which the student lives using a political map. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the physical features of various regions of Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare the physical features of various regions of Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contrast the physical features of various regions of Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and contrast the physical features of various regions of Louisiana.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use maps to identify locations of historical settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify patterns of settlement of Louisiana using maps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe historical patterns of settlement in Louisiana using maps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain historical patterns of settlement in Louisiana using maps.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name ways people can change the land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how people change the land to meet their basic needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how people have changed the land to meet their basic needs over time in Louisiana. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how humans have used the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how humans have adapted to the physical environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how humans have adapted to the physical environment in different regions of Louisiana. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify ways humans affect the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name ways humans affect the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how humans affect the environment in Louisiana. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show an understanding of urban, suburban, and rural communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe urban, suburban, and rural communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinguish between urban, suburban, and rural communities in Louisiana. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify natural resources on a Louisiana map. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show an understanding of the importance of natural resources in Louisiana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the importance of natural resources in Louisiana using maps. 	
	Civics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify rules and laws. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the difference between rules and laws. 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify who is responsible for enforcing laws. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain who is responsible for enforcing state and local laws. 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name the three branches of local government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the major responsibilities of the three branches of government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the major responsibilities of the three branches of local and state government. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify basic needs of society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how government meets the basic needs of society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how local and state governments meet the basic needs of society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how local and state governments meet the basic needs of society.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify state or local officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the powers of local and state officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the powers of local and state officials. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show an understanding of the election process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how state government officials are elected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how government officials at the state and national level are elected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare how government officials at the state and national levels are elected.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify basic rights of individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the rights and responsibilities of individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the responsibilities of individuals in making a community a better place to live. 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name qualities of good leader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe qualities of a good leader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the qualities of a good leader and citizen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the rights and responsibilities of individuals in making a community and state a better place to live. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a local issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize ways a citizen can help solve local issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name ways a citizen can help solve local issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how a citizen can help solve a local issue. 	
	Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe income. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify how people earn income. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify various ways that people earn income and how earning income contributes to their personal economic well-being. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify various ways that people earn income and how earning income contributes to the economic well-being of their community and state. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the characteristics of various jobs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the responsibilities and characteristics of various jobs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the responsibilities and characteristics of various jobs. 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify ways people save money. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List advantages of saving income. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List ways people save their income and explain the advantages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List different ways people save their income and explain the advantages and disadvantages of each. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define surplus and shortage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the economic concepts of opportunity cost, scarcity, surplus, and shortage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the economic concepts of opportunity cost, scarcity, surplus, and shortage and give examples of each based on needs and wants. 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define comparative shopping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe comparative shopping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the benefits of comparative shopping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the benefits of comparative shopping when making economic decisions. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define supply and demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the basic concepts of supply and demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how competition affects the prices of goods and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the basic concepts of supply and demand and explain how competition affects the prices of goods and services. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define producers and consumers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how consumers affect prices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how producers and consumers affect prices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain ways in which people are producers and consumers and explain why they depend on one another. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define imports and exports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiate between imports and exports of goods in Louisiana 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show an understanding of the definitions of specialization and interdependence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify concepts of specialization and interdependence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the concepts of specialization and interdependence in the production of goods and services.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define barter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish between the use of money and barter. 		

