GRADE 3

CONCEPTUAL STRANDS	ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS
PLACES and ENVIRONMENT	Natural resources affect patterns of settlement. Renewable and non-renewable resources are important to a community's economy. Physical features affect a community's economy. People adapt and modify the environment to meet their community's needs.
INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, and INSTITUTIONS	 Families differ because of ethnic backgrounds. The features of an urban, suburban and rural community differ. Sister cities form partnerships to learn more about and support one another. Geographic tools help you find a community's location. Individuals may differ because of their ethnicity and experience prejudice. Sharing diverse customs and traditions enrich a community.
POWER, AUTHORITY, and GOVERNANCE	 Many people in government are elected by citizens through voting. The three levels of government are local, state and national. The three branches of government are executive, legislative and judicial. Government leaders make, interpret, and carry out the laws.
PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, and DISTRIBUTION	 People earn income for the work they do. People make budget decisions about saving and spending. Businesses and industries use raw materials, human and capital resources to manufacture goods and provide services. Transportation improvements change the distribution of products by businesses and industries.
SOCIETY, SCIENCE, and TECHNOLOGY	 Inventions and technology change communication, transportation and the economy of communities. People can positively and negatively affect the environment.
CITIZENSHIP	 Responsibilities (duties) of all citizens include voting, obeying laws, paying taxes and respecting others. Citizens support the community by volunteering and working for the common good. Basic freedoms such as freedom of religion, press and assembly belong to all citizens. To demonstrate loyalty and respect to the United States, citizens recite the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the National Anthem. People work for equality in order to change their communities.
GLOBAL CONNECTIONS	 People throughout the world form connections through different modes of communication. Countries import and export goods and services. People immigrate for personal and economic opportunities.