

THIRD – FOURTH GRADE OVERVIEW

Students in Grades 3 and 4 continue to be naturally curious and eager to learn. They express interest in the unfamiliar and are developmentally ready to study geographic skills and concepts, a major focus of third-grade content. Students begin to develop an understanding of how the environment affects its inhabitants and how people change the land. In fourth grade, students enjoy hearing stories of Alabama's past and are ready to be introduced to their first formal chronological study of history. As they develop an appreciation for people, places, and events that shaped the history of Alabama, they expand their understanding of historical concepts and gain an understanding of their relationship to cultures locally, nationally, and internationally.

The four strands of economics, geography, history, and civics and government are woven throughout the third- and fourth-grade curricula. Through the study of geography in third grade and Alabama history in fourth grade, students develop a better understanding of where they live. As they become active participants in their schools and communities, they begin to view themselves as future leaders with civic responsibilities. Students compare their own economic experiences with those of others to aid in understanding local, national, and international concepts. Through a variety of learning experiences, including the use of technology for exploration and investigation, students gain an increased level of interest and involvement in their world as they prepare to become competent, responsible citizens who lead productive and independent lives.