

**Third Grade Social Studies Overview
“Investigating Individual Communities”**

Overarching Objective: In third grade, students will understand the ways in which local and multicultural peoples and communities are shaped by geographical, political, socio-cultural, and historical contexts; they will examine a specific community (Norwalk, Connecticut) and specific cultures (Native Americans) as case studies.

By the end of third grade, students should know the answers to the following overarching questions:

Essential Questions:

1. What makes Native American communities unique and what do they have in common?
2. How have geography, environment, and cultural diversity affected Norwalk’s history & development?
3. How has Norwalk evolved from a small Indian village into the community it is today?
4. Why is it important to understand and appreciate the place in which you live?

Unit	Geographical Environments (September)	Native Americans (October-November)	Norwalk Geography (December)	Economics/ Industry in Norwalk (January)	Norwalk Local History (February-June)
Core Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the countries & bodies of water that border the continental US 2. Identify & name continents & oceans 3. Define & describe various natural environments in the U.S., their flora and fauna, and daily life 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research cultures of Native Americans living in various natural environments found in the United States. 3. Read about interactions between Native Americans of the Norwalk area and European settlers. 4. Slide show using WPA murals that include Native Americans 5. Journal entry describing first interactions between Native Americans and Europeans 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study and practice drawing map of Norwalk 2. Draw map of student’s neighborhood and give a “tour” to classmates 3. Identify and locate Norwalk within the state of Connecticut, local towns and communities that border Norwalk, and CT with in the U.S. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study Norwalk’s oyster & hatting industries 2. Teacher presentation on why and how people work as well as different types of work within Norwalk. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Then & Now” pictorial tour online from various websites and through WPA murals. 2. Study key people & groups who played a part of Norwalk’s history using the play “Norwalk: It’s Your Life” by Sue Semchuck 3. Study cultural and social history of Norwalk using <u>Tintype to Snapshot: an Album of Victorian Norwalk</u> by Ralph Bloom 4. <i>Little Red Schoolhouse</i> activities 5. Create time capsule as a class (Norwalk today)

District Unit Assessment	Map test on continents, oceans, boundaries, countries that surround the U.S.	Design and present a museum exhibit about a Native American tribe. Include a written historical summary.	Draw illustrated map of Norwalk from memory that includes bodies of water, industry, schools, neighborhoods, City Hall	Essay on the development of industry in Norwalk over time	Journal of a “ghost” or “time traveler” who has been witness to Norwalk’s history
Core Assessments	1. Demonstrate understanding & skills listed above through map quizzes & writing assignments	1. Give presentation on traditions within a Native American tribe 3. Write poem or other response to WPA mural: “Purchase of Norwalk” by Harry Townshend	1. Write the true story of Norwalk’s neighborhoods (Rowayton, South Norwalk, Silvermine, etc.) using historical facts.	1. Create Norwalk industry timeline from memory 2. Write about important historical Norwalk industries using photographs	1. Timeline of Norwalk history from memory 2. Create time capsule of Norwalk from a selected period of time
Suggested Field Trips		1. Bruce Museum- woodland Indians, 2. Fairfield Audubon 3. Pequot Museum	1. Calf Pasture beach 2. Silvermine school- 5 mile river	1. Wheels bus tour of Norwalk– factories, businesses, seaport. 2. Norwalk Chamber of Commerce	1. Lockwood Matthews Mansion 2. Mill Hill (Little Red Schoolhouse activities) 3. City Hall (WPA murals) 4. Train switch museum

(see K-5 curriculum guide for specific lessons, activities, resources)