

**Stratford Public Schools Social Studies Curriculum  
Grade 3 – Unit 2**

**Unit Name: Geography** **Est. # of Weeks: Approximately 15 lessons over 4 weeks**

**Synopsis:** Students will learn the importance of maps and globes and what features are included on them. They will also explore past and present maps of Stratford.

**STUDENT LEARNING GOALS**

**Content-Specific Powered Standards**  
**Knowledge of concepts and information from history and social studies is necessary to promote understanding of our nation and our world.**

- 1.4 Demonstrate an understanding of geographical space and place
- 1.5 Describe the interaction of humans and the environment.

**Competence in literacy, inquiry and research skills is necessary to analyze, evaluate and present history and social studies information.**

- 2.1 Access and gather information from a variety of primary and secondary sources (maps, charts, graphs, images, & print material)
- 2.5 Create relevant social studies materials such as maps, charts or displays.

**Interdisciplinary Standards (as appropriate)**

**Key Vocabulary**

Map, globe, ocean, continent, symbol, compass rose, coast, forest, island, lake, pond, river, mountain, marsh, weather, climate

**Enduring Understandings**

- Maps and globes help us locate places in our town, state, country and world.
- Map features help us to better understand and read a map.
- Town maps help us see the changes that have taken place in Stratford over time.

**Essential Questions**

- What are maps and globes and how do they help us locate places in our world?
- What important features are included on a map?
- What does a map of Stratford look like today and how was it different when Stratford was first settled?

**Learning Objectives / Grade Level Expectations**

*Students will:*

- Use map symbols to locate critical features of one's town. (GLE#5)
- Identify and locate the earth's continents and oceans. (GLE#6)
- Explain how physical systems (weather/climate) affect people and their lives. (GLE#7)
- Use maps, charts and Internet sources to gather information. (GLE#21)
- Answer questions about grade-level content, texts, charts and graphs. (GLE#20)
- Prepare maps of one's town depicting relevant information. (GLE#27)

**ASSESSMENT PLAN**

**Summative Assessment(s)**

End of unit assessment: Label continents and oceans on world map, define vocabulary and label map of Stratford (an assessment is included or you can make your own to meet the needs of your students.)

**Formative and Diagnostic Assessment(s)**

Pre-Assessment: Label continents and oceans on world map, define map key, compass rose, weather, climate