

# United States of America

Creating Instructional Unit Resource Guides  
Based on principles of Universal Design & Differentiated Instruction



Social Studies  
Focusing on 3rd Grade Social Studies and Language Standards  
Cleveland Elementary UDL Team  
Elkhart Community Schools  
Elkhart, Indiana

## Author's Note

Welcome to a 3rd grade experience at Cleveland Elementary. We are a team of administrators, teachers, and a paraprofessional. We are participating in the UDL/Patins Project, "Universal Design for Learning" in Elkhart, Indiana.



This unit is about states and maps and has been designed for 3rd grade. The teacher who will be implementing this unit has been in education and teaching 3rd grade for 6 years and has had experience with using technology to differentiate instruction.

The states unit was designed to work with a standards-based unit involving third grade social studies and language arts standards.

# Standards

Indiana State Standards for 3rd grade Social Studies and Language Arts addressed in this unit:

## Social Studies

3.1.6

[View Resource\(s\)](#)

Read fiction and nonfiction stories to identify the qualities of leaders, such as community leaders, soldiers, presidents, teachers, and inventors.

3.1.7

[View Resource\(s\)](#)

Use a variety of community resources — such as libraries, museums, and county historians — to gather information about the local community.

3.2.7

[View Resource\(s\)](#)

Use a variety of [information resources](#) to gather information about community leaders and civic issues.

3.3.1

[View Resource\(s\)](#)

Distinguish between physical and political features on maps and globes and label a map of North America identifying countries, oceans, major rivers, the Great Lakes, and mountain ranges. Locate the United States, Indiana, and the local community.

3.3.3

[View Resource\(s\)](#)

Explain that regions are areas that have similar physical and [cultural characteristics](#), and locate the local community in a specific region.

3.3.6

[View Resource\(s\)](#)

Construct maps and graphs that show aspects of human/environment interaction in the local community.

3.5.3

[View Resource\(s\)](#)

Examine the contributions of individual artists (painters, sculptors, writers, musicians, and traditional artists) in enriching the culture of the community.

3.5.4

[View Resource\(s\)](#)

Identify factors that make the local community unique, including how the community is enriched through foods, crafts, customs, languages, music, visual arts, architecture, dance, and drama representing various cultures.

3.5.5

[View Resource\(s\)](#)

Use community resources — such as museums, libraries, historic buildings, and other landmarks — to gather cultural information about the community.

# Language Arts

3.1.5

# Planning Pyramid

## What the Students Should Know

### **Some students will know:**

- The names of every state.
- How to find information on a chosen state through research.
- Names of the oceans on the East and West of the United States.

### **Most Students will know:**

- The names of the states surrounding Indiana.
- The names of local lakes and rivers

### **All Students will know:**

- How to locate Indiana
- Each boundary on a map is a state
- There are 50 states in the United states.

# Teacher Library

## Lesson Plans

To find lesson plans on the States  
Use Scott Foresman 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Social Studies text

## Internet Resources

Websites:

[www.sheppardsoftware.com](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com)

[www.50states.com/tools](http://www.50states.com/tools)

<http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/kids/kids.html>

[www.50states.com](http://www.50states.com)

# Learner Activities

## Projects that could be done in groups:

- At computer center, work with a partner to drag the states to the correct place : [www.50states.com](http://www.50states.com)
- Research states and write a state report
- Locate a state homepage and find information such as state bird, song, flower

## Projects that require art:

- Make posters to encourage others to move to your state  
<http://poster.hprtec.org/>
- Make a physical map of your state, draw and label any landforms or bodies of water

## Projects that are written:

- E-mail a pen pal in another state asking about their state
- Write a report about another state using information from research
- Write a poem or short story about your state
- Write a postcard to a friend from a certain state telling about your adventures.

# Assessment

- SMARTboard
  - Locate a given state's website
  - Drag state names to matching state
  - Circle Indiana on a map of the U.S
  - Drag lake/river names to matching lakes/rivers
- CoWriter/Write Outloud
  - Written report about a state
- Alphasmarts
  - Written report about a state
  -

# Modifications

Planning for Academic diversity

Learning Barrier	Possible Solutions	Web Link Resources
Student cannot read at grade level	Kurzweil 3000 Reading Pen Audio Text from Scott Foresman	<a href="http://www.readplease.com">www.readplease.com</a>
Student has difficulty comprehending the vocabulary in the unit	Reading pen Audio Text from Scott Foresman	<a href="http://www.m-w.com">www.m-w.com</a>
Student needs the instructional language in a language other than English	ENL teacher Translate material into students language	<a href="http://www.Babelfish.com">www.Babelfish.com</a> <a href="http://www.Readplease.com">www.Readplease.com</a>
Students has difficulty with handwriting	Co-Writer Write Out Loud Dana Alpha Smart	<a href="http://www.alphasmart.com">www.alphasmart.com</a>
Student needs additional challenge	WebQuest	<a href="http://www.webquest.com">www.webquest.com</a> <a href="http://www.Thinkquest.com">www.Thinkquest.com</a>