National Social Studies and Science Standards Alignment

Junior Great Books Nonfiction Inquiry provides nonfiction content that educators can use to connect their English Language Arts curriculum to content areas in science and social studies. This chart details the alignment of Nonfiction Inquiry units with the disciplinary core ideas in the Grade 3 NextGen Science Standards (NGSS) and the Grade 3 themes outlined by the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS).

Unit 1: "Can Robots Be People Too?"

NGSS Grade 3 Disciplinary Core Ideas

ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems

Possible solutions to a problem are limited by available materials and resources (constraints). The success of a designed solution is determined by considering the desired features of a solution (criteria). Different proposals for solutions can be compared on the basis of how well each one meets the specified criteria for success or how well each takes the constraints into account. (3-5-ETS1: Engineering Design)

NCSS Grade 3 Themes

8. Science, Technology, and Society

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of relationships among science, technology, and society.

Unit 2: "Small Acts Make a Big Difference"

NCSS Grade 3 Themes

5. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions.

10. Civic Ideals and Practices

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the ideals, principles, and practices of citizenship in a democratic republic.

Unit 3: "Becoming Francisco X. Alarcón"

NCSS Grade 3 Themes

1. Culture

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of culture and cultural diversity.

4. Individual Development and Identity

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of individual development and identity.

Unit 4: "Egg-cellent Bird Parents"

NGSS Grade 3 Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms

Reproduction is essential to the continued existence of every kind of organism. Plants and animals have unique and diverse life cycles. (3-LS1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes)

LS4.C: Adaptation

For any particular environment, some kinds of organisms survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. (3-LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity)

Unit 5: "Weather Watchers"

NGSS Grade 3 Disciplinary Core Ideas

ESS2.D: Weather and Climate

Scientists record patterns of the weather across different times and areas so that they can make predictions about what kind of weather might happen next. (3-ESS2-1 Earth's Systems)

NCSS Grade 3 Themes

8. Science, Technology, and Society

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of relationships among science, technology, and society.

Unit 6: "Don't Swallow That Spider!"

NCSS Grade 3 Themes

1. Culture

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of culture and cultural diversity.

Unit 7: "Children of the Oregon Trail"

NCSS Grade 3 Themes

2. Time, Continuity, and Change

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the past and its legacy.

3. People, Places, and Environments

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of people, places, and environments.

Unit 8: "Grunts, Flops, and Dives!"

NCSS Grade 3 Themes

5. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions.

6. Power, Authority, and Governance

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people create, interact with, and change structures of power, authority, and governance.

Unit 9: "Burger with a Side of Shoe Polish"

NCSS Grade 3 Themes

7. Production, Distribution, and Consumption

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.