



**Project Title:** Create a Community: Part 1

**Grade:** 3

**Project Idea:** Students will interact with certain factors (environment, weather, plants/animals, etc) by organizing and manipulating resources, creating customs and traditions, setting up governments and economies and by reflecting and learning from their own history. Students will build a town literally from the ground up.

Our study begins with a large land map with many landforms which is then “discovered” by explorers who choose to make a settlement. The settlers (students) identify their needs and wants, use the resources at hand and create new ones to meet their needs. They respect their natural environment with a nature preserve, and they integrate their different cultures to build a strong, diverse society. Later the students “modernize” their town allowing them to better understand the complexities of our own modern cities. As “citizens” of your class town, students will experience the connections between the factors that make up our lives and participate in choices and decisions that help improve the life for all.

**Part 1:** Students begin by becoming the first visitors to a new land. They will discover natural resources and how to use them. They will also explore and learn about the different landforms that are in their areas. The students will explore how goods were traded before the introduction of a monetary system.

**Driving Question:** How are our lives affected by our geographical environment, our climate and seasons, our plant and animal neighbors and by each other?

**Content:**

**SS:**

3.1: Students describe the physical and human geography and use maps, tables, graphs, photographs, and charts to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.

3.3 Students draw from historical and community resources to organize the sequence of local historical events and describe how each period of settlement left its mark on the land.

3.5 Students demonstrate basic economic reasoning skills and an understanding of the economy of the local region.

**Math:**

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.3.MD.C.5

**Major Products:** Students will map out the geography of their areas and the beginnings of their community. Students will be given a choice in how they present their maps, and what types of map they will create. It can be a poster, digital, or a 3-D model.

**Making it Public:** Students will present to a geography professor and/or a map maker.