

Enhancement Activities/Strategies for Gifted/High Ability Learners: Sample Social Studies Learning Plan

Big Idea/ Topic

- Rivers & Mountain Ranges of the U.S.
- Connecting Theme/Enduring Understanding: Location: The student will understand that location affects a society's economy, culture, and development.
- Essential Question: How do land and water features shape our lives?

Standard Alignment

SS3G1 Locate major topographical features on a physical map of the United States.
 a. Locate major rivers of the United States of America: Mississippi, Ohio, Rio Grande, Colorado, Hudson, and St. Lawrence.
 b. Locate major mountain ranges of the United States of America: Appalachian, Rocky.

Connection to Literacy Standards for Social Studies and Social Studies Matrices

ELAGSE3RI4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

ELAGSE3SL1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

c. Ask questions to check understanding of information presented, stay on topic, and link their comments to the remarks of others.

d. Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

ELAGSE3RI9: Compare and contrast the most important points and key details.

ELAGSE3W7: Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

ELAGSE3W8: Recall information from experience or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.

Map and Globe skills – 4 (compare/contrast categories of natural, cultural, and political features found on maps) Information Processing Skills –1 (compare similarities and differences), 9 (construct charts and tables)

Advanced Research

Plan a family trip to visit a city along each of the major rivers (Mississippi, Ohio, Rio Grande, Colorado, Hudson, and St. Lawrence). You must visit at least 1 state or [national park](#) or historical location in or near each of the cities you visit. Create an itinerary showing what you will do in each city and how long you will visit each location. Use a travel planning website ([Google Maps](#), Apple Maps, etc.) or an atlas to calculate the distance between cities in miles. You may add additional stops along your route to visit family, friends, or other locations. Compile your plan and share it with your family and your teacher. (This is a collaborative project that can also be used to support Math Standard **MGSE3.NBT.2** Fluently add and subtract within 1000 using strategies and algorithms based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction. (Planning Guide on Page 4)

Communication

Challenge students to write a haiku poem about a mountain range or river and create a poster depicting it using PowerPoint or Google slides or drawing on paper. Students can use this [Haiku template](#) from ReadWriteThink. Here is an example of a finished Haiku. Here's an example [poem](#).

Critical Thinking and Critical Problem-Solving Skills

Challenge early finishers to play [River Crossing](#) in small groups of in-person students or connected in a channel or breakout room. The challenge: using a small rowboat, how can they transport a chicken, a fox, and a bag of corn to the other side of the river in as few moves as possible. The link includes rules and reflection questions.

Creative Thinking and Creative Problem-Solving Skills

Create “Chutes and Ladders” style game (or a different type of game) focused on geography. Add game components depicting the major US rivers and mountain ranges. Add other geographic features you want to your game. Write the rules for playing your game. Don't forget to give your game a catchy title. If your students are virtual, challenge students to create games using PowerPoint or Google Slides or coding with [Scratch](#). Digital Templates: [Digital Board Game](#) and [Jeopardy](#). Enjoy playing the geography-themed games during indoor recess.

Awareness of Self—Student’s Well-being

Show students this [game](#) to practice locating rivers and mountain ranges. Encourage students to improve accuracy and speed by setting weekly goals for improvement.



Name _____

Family Road Trip

Plan a family trip to visit a city along each of the major rivers (Mississippi, Ohio, Rio Grande, Colorado, Hudson, and St. Lawrence). You must visit at least 1 state or [national park](#) or historical location in or near each of the cities you visit. Create an itinerary showing what you will do in each city and how long you will visit each location. Use a travel planning website ([Google Maps](#), Apple Maps, etc.) or an atlas to calculate the distance between cities in miles. You may add additional stops along your route to visit family, friends, or other locations. Compile your plan and share it with your family and your teacher.

Miles to Get to this Location	Day	City	River	Activities or Places to Visit	Total Miles Traveled
Number of miles from your home city to first location					

Miles to Get to this Location	Day	City	River	Activities or Places to Visit	Total Miles Traveled

Total Number of Miles Traveled _____