
Grade 3

In Grade 3, students learn how individuals have changed their communities and world. Students study the effects inspiring heroes have had on communities past and present. Students learn about the lives of heroic men and women who made important choices, overcame obstacles, sacrificed for the betterment of others, and embarked on journeys that resulted in new ideas, new inventions, and new communities. Students expand their knowledge through the identification and study of people who made a difference, influenced public policy and decision making, and participated in resolving issues that are important to all people. Throughout Grade 3, students develop an understanding of the economic, cultural, and scientific contributions made by individuals.

To support the teaching of the essential knowledge and skills, the use of a variety of rich material such as biographies, folktales, myths, legends, and poetry, songs, and artworks is encouraged. Selections may include the legend of Paul Bunyan. Motivating resources are also available from museums, historical sites, presidential libraries, and local and state preservation societies.

Pierre Charles L’Enfant (1754-1825) Born in France, Pierre L’Enfant applied French architectural styles to U.S. government buildings during the era of the early republic. He volunteered to fight in the American Revolution and wintered at Valley Forge in 1777 where he served as captain of engineers for a time. After the war, President George Washington commissioned him to design the emblems for the Society of the Cincinnati. L’Enfant converted the Old City Hall in Philadelphia to Federal Hall to serve the U.S. Congress. When Washington, D.C. was chosen as the new site of the federal capital, Washington asked L’Enfant to design the city. L’Enfant was dismissed in 1792 because he did not listen to directions, overspent the budget, and ignored the claims of previous owners. Nonetheless, his plan is evident in the modern layout, with the White House and Capitol on high ground and the streets intersecting at landmarks.

Christopher Columbus (1451-1506) Born in Genoa, Italy, Christopher Columbus was a navigator and explorer who planned and led the voyage which landed in the West Indies in 1492. Columbus believed that, because the world was round and because long-distance navigation was technically possible, sailors should be able to head west to arrive in the East. Trade with the East was highly prized; spices and other commodities brought profit to merchants involved in overland trade. An ocean route could increase

profit. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain partially funded the expedition at Columbus’ request.

Earlier attempts made by Columbus to secure Portuguese funding for voyages to chart new routes to the Far East failed, but in 1492, with Spanish support, he set sail with three ships. When he touched land after a 37-day voyage, debarking on present-day San Salvador on October 12, 1492, he believed he had reached the East Indies. He led three more voyages to the New World searching for gold and other treasures prior to his death in 1506. He established the first permanent colony in Cuba during his second voyage in 1493, deposited more settlers near Venezuela in 1494, and completed his fourth voyage in 1503. Though Columbus never made the financial gains he envisioned, European nations realized the potential of the new continent as a source of riches and agricultural commodities and competed for colonization rights. The significance of Columbus’ discovery is remembered every Columbus Day, a federal holiday on the second Monday of October.

Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809) Meriwether Lewis is remembered as the leader of the successful expedition which traveled from the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to the Pacific Coast in 1804-06. He spent his youth roaming the woods, hunting and observing nature. He volunteered to lead a transcontinental exploration in 1792 which Thomas Jefferson was organizing, but the expedition

never happened. Lewis enlisted in the Virginia militia instead and became an ensign in the U.S. Army in 1795. Eventually, he was assigned to a company William Clark commanded.

In 1801 Jefferson contacted Lewis to begin preparations for an expedition. In 1803 Lewis asked Clark to accompany him; Jefferson approved and instructed Lewis to explore the Missouri River to its source and then follow a westward flowing stream to the Pacific Ocean. Lewis commanded the expedition and recorded most of the scientific information in the journals. The objective was to secure the fur trade of tribes living in the west and to increase scientific and geographic understanding of the continent. It was also the first time white men crossed the North American continent within the boundaries of the present United States. After the expedition Jefferson appointed Lewis governor of the Louisiana Territory, but he was unsuccessful in the position. Lewis was either murdered or committed suicide at a tavern on the Natchez Trace.

William Clark (1770-1838) William Clark assisted Meriwether Lewis on the successful expedition which traveled from the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to the Pacific Coast in 1804-06. Clark was born in Virginia, and his older brothers all fought as officers in the American Revolution. Brigadier General George Rogers Clark, one of his brothers, led forces into the Illinois territory during the war. William served in the Kentucky militia and in the U.S. Army but was tending his parents' plantation in Kentucky when Lewis asked him to assist with the exploration of the Missouri River. He and Lewis and members of the party left Wood River, Illinois on May 14, 1804, traveling up the Missouri River. They reached the Pacific coast in mid-November 1805 and returned to St. Louis in September 1806. After the expedition, Clark was appointed Indian agent and brigadier general of the militia of the Louisiana Territory. For 30 years he negotiated treaties with the Indians of the upper Mississippi and Missouri rivers, relocating many to the Kansas Territory.

Henry Ford (1863-1947) Henry Ford helped create a mobile society by mass producing and marketing the Model T automobile, making it an indispensable part of American life. Through his efforts, the automotive industry became a world-wide phenomenon. Born on a farm near Detroit, Michigan, Ford worked on the farm, at a shipbuilding firm, and for a company which serviced steam engines. During the winters he experimented on building his own internal-combustion engines. He drove his first home-built automobile in 1896. The Ford Motor Company was founded in 1903 and he developed the Model T by 1908. Ford used mass production to reduce the price of the Model T, and he worked to perfect the assembly line. He retained complete company control and used it to amass billions of dollars.

Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre (1789-1851) Louis Daguerre invented the process to permanently capture images on light-sensitive materials, thus ushering in the age of photography. A native of France, he first earned his living by painting scenery and grounds for theaters. He popularized panoramic paintings — large scale, accurate scenes on canvases on a continuous roll — which were exhibited in the Diorama. He often used a camera obscura, a device which reflected a scene onto a canvas that artists then traced. Daguerre sought to fix the image and he worked to invent a light-sensitive material which was permanent. Silver iodide was sensitive to light; mercury exposed the image and common salt fixed the image. He accepted a life-time pension from the French government in exchange for the process, which was publicized by the Academy of Sciences in Paris on August 19, 1839. Others rapidly made improvements to the photographic process but Daguerreotypes remained the principal medium of photography until the 1850s. Daguerreotypes consisted of a silver-coated brass plate exposed to iodide vapor. The plate was then exposed to light and developed using mercury vapor. The image was fixed using sodium thiosulfate and was mounted under glass to protect it.

Cyrus Hall McCormick (1809-1884) The son of a farmer/blacksmith/inventor, Cyrus McCormick applied his talents to the invention, improvement, manufacture and marketing of a successful mechanical reaper, patented in 1834. Reapers, pulled by horses, cut the grain for harvesters to bind and stack in the fields. Prior to adoption of the mechanical reaper, a farmer could only plant as much wheat as he could harvest since ripe wheat was easily ruined. The grain was often lost during harvest if the wheat was overripe, and storms could destroy entire crops. Labor was expensive because it was in great demand. The reaper allowed farmers to plant more wheat because they had the potential to harvest more. McCormick moved to Chicago in 1847 to take advantage of the growing market for reapers as wheat cultivation moved into the plains of the United States and Canada. Reapers and other machines revolutionized grain cultivation and as the international grain trade increased after 1880 mechanization became more important. In 1902 his son Cyrus, Jr. merged McCormick Company with other firms to form International Harvester Company. It competed successfully with a half dozen other farm machinery manufacturers for worldwide distribution up to the late 1980s.

Louis Pasteur (1822-1895) French chemist Louis Pasteur discovered that heat could kill bacteria which otherwise spoiled liquids including wine and beer. He was the first to understand microscopic organisms, and a paper he published following his research with wine introduced the field of microbiology. He proved that the growth of bacteria resulted from germs in the air and not spontaneous generation. He applied the process of heating liquids to kill bacteria to other products including milk. **The process is known**

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as “pasteurization.” In the 1870s Pasteur applied his efforts toward human diseases, beginning with anthrax, a disease which affected animals and people. He also invented a vaccine to counter the effects of rabies. Pasteur directed the Pasteur Institute dedicated to rabies research until his death.

Jonas Salk (1914-1995) The American microbiologist who invented the vaccine to prevent polio, Jonas Salk was the oldest child of Jewish immigrants from Poland. He earned his medical degree from the New York University School of Medicine and then worked with Thomas Francis, Jr. at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, funded by a National Research Council fellowship. They developed a “killed-virus” vaccine to counter type A and B influenza viruses. In 1947 he moved to the Virus Research Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and built a lab to accommodate his research efforts. By 1952 Salk was ready to test his “killed-virus” polio vaccine and the trial inoculations began in 1954. By the end of 1955, seven million children were immunized and cases of polio were reduced by 96 percent. Salk’s approach differed from that of Albert Sabin, the leading advocate of a live-virus polio vaccine. By 1958, Sabin’s oral vaccine replaced Salk’s intravenous shot but Salk is still credited as having defeated polio. He founded the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California, in 1960, earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977, and worked in the field of science until his death.

Jane Addams (1860-1935) The first woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize (1931), Jane Addams is more widely known for her role in the establishment of Hull House in Chicago in 1889 and the Settlement House Movement in the United States. Motivated by a visit to Toynbee Hall, a settlement begun by Oxford men on London’s East End, Addams and her friend Ellen Gates Starr returned to open Hull House. By 1893 it offered medical care, legal aid, language classes, music, and drama to more than two thousand needy each week. Their activism in support of the poor, immigrants, and women involved Addams in politics. She became the first vice president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1911 and campaigned for Theodore Roosevelt and the Progressive Party in 1912. To ensure peace and freedom she helped found the American Civil Liberties Union in 1920 and served as the first president of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom in 1919, a role she continued until her death.

Helen Keller (1880-1968) When she was a baby of nineteen months, Helen Keller lost her sight and hearing due to a fever. Her mother refused to let the child give up and sought expert advice and treatment. Anne Sullivan became the lifelong teacher and companion of Keller. The “teacher” taught Helen how to communicate by sign language, read with Braille, and write with a special typewriter. Keller earned a degree from Radcliffe College and published two books

by 1903. She was an active suffragette, supported the American Foundation for the Blind, and was a symbol of courage and capability to the world. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964.

Harriet Tubman (ca. 1820-1913) Escaping to freedom in Philadelphia from Maryland in 1849, Harriet Tubman led more than 300 slaves to freedom over the next ten years. She lived in St. Catherine’s, Ontario, after 1850 when the Fugitive Slave Act made it easy for slave traders to kidnap free slaves. She also owned property in upstate New York, purchased from abolitionist William E. Seward. Her parents and other refugees lived there. Tubman was a spy and scout for Union troops during the Civil War. After the war she opened the “Home for Indigent Aged Negroes” on her farm in New York and attended the women’s rights meetings in nearby Seneca Falls. The first Black Heritage series postage stamp, released in 1978, depicted Harriet Tubman, a woman who risked everything to liberate slaves.

Daniel Boone (1734-1820) Daniel Boone opened the Kentucky frontier to settlement from the east by surveying land, opening the Wilderness Road, fighting Indians, and building settlements. Wherever Boone went, settlement followed. He spent his life exploring the frontier, moving from Kentucky to Missouri territory in 1799. He eventually lost his Missouri land to mismanagement and encroachment, just as he lost his Kentucky holdings.

His real life accomplishments gained the status of popular myth during his lifetime because his adventures symbolized the changes in America from an independent, rugged frontier to a modern, mechanized nation. Boone enjoyed status as a real figure of national significance as well as a mythical or folk hero based on exaggerations of his abilities and exploits.

David “Davy” Crockett (1786-1836) Born in East Tennessee, Davy Crockett enlisted in the militia in 1813 and fought in the Creek Indian War. He also pursued local and then state and national politics, supporting public land policy to aid western settlement. He disagreed with Andrew Jackson on several issues including land reform and the Indian removal bill, but he was unable to counter the popular support for Jackson and was not willing to join forces with the Whig opposition. In disgust, he left the upper south and headed to Texas, arriving in San Antonio in early February 1836. He died in the battle of the Alamo on March 6, 1836.

The exploits of Davy Crockett, a sharpshooter and hunter, were exaggerated and printed in a series of comic almanacs published from 1836-1856. In this way, his real accomplishments contributed to the formation of a folk myth. Crockett enjoyed status as a figure of regional significance as well as a mythical or folk hero based on exaggerations of his abilities and exploits. Crockett, like Daniel Boone, earned a place in American folklore as a model of independence

and virtue in a frontier setting.

Pecos Bill A mythical American folk hero, Pecos Bill was created by Edward O'Reilly of *Century* magazine to represent western stamina and values. A cowboy from the Pecos River region of Texas, Pecos Bill was raised by coyotes, rode a mountain lion, and used a rattlesnake as a lasso.

Paul Bunyan A mythical American folk hero, Paul Bunyan represents typical frontier tall tales. The fictional exploits of Bunyan in local lumber camps formed an important part of oral tradition in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and the Northwest before they were published by James MacGillvray in 1910 in a story in the *Detroit News-Tribune*. Between 1914 and 1944, W. B. Laughead produced the series of pamphlets which made Bunyan a national legend.

Robinson Crusoe Robinson Crusoe is the leading character in a novel by Daniel Defoe, published in 1719 (*The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, of York, Mariner: Who Lived Eight and Twenty Years, All Alone in an Un-inhabited Island on the Coast of America, Near the Mouth of the Great River of Oroonoque; Having Been Cast on Shore by Shipwreck, Wherein All the Men Perished but Himself, With an Account how he was at last as Strangely Deliver'd by Pyrates. Written by Himself*). Due to the success of the original, Defoe wrote a sequel in the same year, *The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*. The tale remains popular because generations of readers recognize Crusoe's nature and his quest for social interaction as similar to their own.