

Grade 7 Social Studies TEKS

Overview

In Grade 7, students study the history and geography of Texas from early times to the present, ranging from the time period of Native Americans living in Texas prior to European exploration to the 20th century. Students learn about the cultures of Native Americans, European exploration, the Spanish mission system, colonization, revolution, republic and statehood. They also learn about city, county, and state governments, the Texas Constitution, and rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens.

History: Students will

- Identify and describe, in order, the major periods of Texas history, and sequence important individuals, events, and time periods.
- Compare the Native American cultures found in Texas prior to European exploration.
- Explain how European exploration and colonization shaped Texas history.
- Explain how the Texas Revolution shaped Texas history.
- Explain how individuals, events, and issues of the Republic of Texas and early Texas statehood shaped Texas history.
- Explain how events and issues during the Civil War and Reconstruction shaped Texas history.
- Explain how individuals, events, and issues from the period of Reconstruction through the beginning of the 20th century shaped Texas history.
- Explain how individuals, events, and issues during the 20th century shaped Texas history.

Geography: Students will

- Collect, analyze and interpret geographic information.
- Describe the political, economic and physical regions in Texas.
- Describe how climate, weather and landforms influence where people live in Texas.
- Describe how people in Texas have adapted to and changed their environments.

Economics: Students will

- Describe how land was used to make profits in Texas during each historical period.
- Explain the economic connection between Texas, the United States, and the world.

Government: Students will

- Identify the basic principles of the Texas Constitution.
- Identify the ideas borrowed from the U.S. Constitution for the Texas Constitution.
- Identify and describe the structure and functions of government created by the Texas Constitution.

Citizenship: Students will

- Describe important political customs, symbols and celebrations in Texas.
- Explain the role of the individual in state and local elections.
- Identify leaders in state and local government, and list ways to contact them.

Culture: Students will

- Identify the contributions of people of different racial, ethnic and religious groups in Texas.

Science, Technology and Society: Students will

- Describe the impact of science and technology on life in Texas.

Grade 7 Social Studies TEKS

Social Studies Skills: Students will

- Apply critical-thinking skills, communicate effectively, and use problem-solving and decision-making processes.

Tips for Parents

- Study important events in Texas and U.S. history and discuss how they have affected your family.
- Visit interesting places in the Austin area that will help your child understand how landforms and climate affect the way people live in Central Texas. Interesting places to visit include: Mansfield Dam and the Highland Lakes, Mt. Bonnell, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Research Center, Barton Springs, Zilker Botanical Gardens, McKinney Falls State Park, and the Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve.
- Chart daily stock prices of local businesses that are listed on the stock exchange.
- Identify advances in science and technology, such as the: windmill, revolver, discovery of oil, or barbed wire. Discuss effects these inventions have had on the development of Texas today.
- Draw a family tree; complete and discuss information for at least three generations.
- Help your child use a Texas road map to plan a trip to an interesting Texas site.
- Ask your child to plan a family trip to a local Texas history museum such as the Bullock State History Museum, Neill-Cochran House, or Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farm.
- Read the newspaper, watch TV news, and surf the Internet with your child. Discuss interesting Texas events and people in the news.
- Watch educational television programs on Texas history and discuss them with your child.
- Visit local art galleries and historic sites.
- Attend and participate in special events and cultural celebrations in the community, such as the AISD Powwow and the American Indian Heritage Festival held the first Saturday in November each year.
- Discuss the characteristics of a responsible Texas citizen. Take your child to a political party headquarters and volunteer to help in local elections. Show and discuss your voter registration card with your child.
- Volunteer in your community with your child. Encourage your child to participate in the community – assist with Meals on Wheels, nursing homes, and Caritas.
- On road trips, stop and read historical markers.
- Visit a local courtroom with your child.
- Attend the Texas Legislature when it is in session.