

# SOCIAL STUDIES

FOCUS 2020-21



**World, U.S., & Texas history**

for grades 5 & 6  
based on the annual UIL topic





# SOCIAL STUDIES FOCUS FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADES

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Note - Notable events and important people throughout this document are in **boldface type**. This suggests more in-depth study is recommended!



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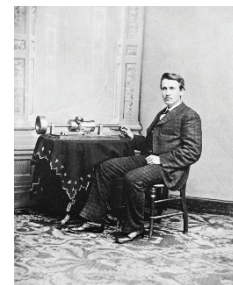
### UNITED STATES

(60% of the test)

#### I. HISTORICAL ISSUES, EVENTS AND PEOPLE OF THE 20TH CENTURY

##### A. 1900 to 1910

1. Galveston Hurricane -1900
  - a. The 20<sup>th</sup> century opened with the devastating hurricane that slammed into Galveston Island in September.
  - b. Some have called it **Isaac's Storm** after Isaac Cline, the forecaster at the Weather Bureau in Galveston.
  - c. The strength of the storm and its exact destination could not be determined at the time. There were no satellites or radar systems creating pictures of the clouds and winds over the Gulf of Mexico to give advance warning.
  - d. Galveston was the leading port in Texas and for many people in "high society" it rivaled New York City.
  - e. Entire families were washed away as houses were swept off their foundations and tossed back into the sea. Almost 4,000 homes disappeared. The city was in ruins. It is thought that about 8,000 people died.
  - f. The rebuilding of Galveston was a huge task. City leaders decided to raise the elevation of the island by bringing in sand from the ocean floor. They built a sea wall 16 feet high and 17 feet wide along a 10-mile stretch of coastline to protect the city from future storm surges.
  - g. As a result of the storm, Galveston lost its place of importance. The city of Houston paid for the dredging of the Houston ship channel, which ultimately allowed Houston to become the major port and greatest commercial center of the southern coast of Texas.
2. Inventions - c. 1900
  - a. The Brownie film camera was created and launched by the Eastman Kodak Company. It cost \$1 and, for the first time, made cameras and photography available to the public.
  - b. In 1877, Thomas Edison invented the phonograph, a machine that both recorded and played sound. The Victor Talking Machine Company, founded around 1900 by Eldridge Johnson, was the most successful maker of phonographs. Edison also perfected a long-lasting light bulb.
3. Assassination of the president - 1901
  - a. President **William McKinley** was gunned down by a radical named Leon Czolgosz at the Pan-American Exhibition in Buffalo, New York. Gangrene later set in and the wound proved to be fatal.
  - b. The nation's vice president, **Theodore Roosevelt**, was sworn in to replace him. McKinley's murderer was sentenced to death by electric chair.



Thomas Edison

4. Spindletop - 1901
  - a. Patillo Higgins bought land in the 1880s on Spindletop Hill, south of Beaumont Texas, and began to drill for oil. He hired Anthony F. Lucas to help develop the area he thought would be a productive oil field, but the first efforts failed.
  - b. In 1901, with new financing and developers, Lucas led the way in drilling a new well. Thinking they hit another dry spot, the workers were startled by the rumble, roar, and eventual explosion of oil that came from the ground that reached 100 feet high.
  - c. Initially, this well produced more oil than all others in the United States (U.S.), but as more wells were drilled, production declined.
  - d. Beaumont became a boomtown. Everyone wanted to be part of the oil-rush.
  - e. **Wildcatters**, people who developed oil fields that could be expensive and risky, came. They hired **roughnecks**, the nickname for oil-field workers.
  - f. New companies were built, such as Texas Company (**Texaco**), to drill and process the oil.
  - g. A high supply of oil meant the price of gas went down. More people could afford cars, so businesses in other states, like the automobile industries in Michigan, were also helped by the boom.
  - h. Profits from the oil industry also increased the taxes the state could collect.
5. More inventions - c. 1902-1908
  - a. Batteries, in a primitive form, date back as far as the Parthian Empire, or over 2,000 years ago. **Thomas Edison**, the same person famous for patenting the light bulb, invented the alkaline battery.
  - b. The **airplane** was completed in 1903 by **Wilbur and Orville Wright**, the brothers who successfully took off and landed the first airplane flight in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. This invention and its continual refinement throughout the century allowed humans to take to airspace for the first time and was later adapted for use in work, recreation, and even World War I (WWI).
  - c. The basis for the modern air conditioner was created around 1902 by a man named Willis Carrier.
  - d. The first mass-produced **automobile** was completed by **Henry Ford**, the man who set up Ford Motor Company. It was called the Model T and was nicknamed the "Tin Lizzie." Its design and the factory assembly-line system enabled the vehicle to become the first affordable automobile.
6. Panama Canal - 1904-1914
  - a. When Theodore Roosevelt became president, he set his mind on the completion of this Central American canal, which was completed in 1914 and connected the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
  - b. The U.S. helped Panama gain its independence in 1903 and signed the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty with the newly independent republic. This treaty and a payment of \$250,000 allowed the U.S. to build the canal.
  - c. The threat of tropical diseases like malaria and yellow fever and inhumane working conditions plagued construction.

7. San Francisco Earthquake - 1906
  - a. This earthquake had a magnitude of 7.8 and caused massive damage along the San Andreas Fault and northern California's coastline.
  - b. The earthquake started fires from damaged gas lines in San Francisco, its epicenter, and destroyed most of the city. Thousands perished.
  - c. This disaster allowed scientists to gather significant data about earthquakes that helped them to understand the phenomenon.

**B. 1910 to 1920**

1. First Military Airplane Flight - 1910
  - a. Lieutenant Benjamin D. Foulois flew the first flight for the U.S. at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio in a Wright Brothers' plane. The flight lasted seven-and-a-half minutes.
  - b. This event marked the shaky start of the **U.S. Air Force**.
2. Mexican Revolution - 1910-1919
  - a. The revolution south of the border raged during this decade.
  - b. President **William Howard Taft** stationed 20,000 troops along the Texas-Mexico border to combat the raids on Texas settlements by participants in the revolution, including **Pancho Villa** and his followers.
3. Sinking of the RMS *Titanic* - 1912
  - a. The **RMS Titanic** was built by the White Star Line and was the largest ocean liner at the time.
  - b. On its first voyage, the ship carried some of the wealthiest people in the world, and there were more than 2,000 people on the ship.
  - c. The ocean liner hit an iceberg in the middle of the North Atlantic and sunk.
  - d. More than 1,500 passengers lost their lives, and this was the deadliest sea disaster during peace time.
  - e. The site of the shipwreck was rediscovered in 1985.
4. **17<sup>th</sup> Amendment** - Direct Election of U.S. Senators - 1913
  - a. The Amendment supported direct election of U.S. Senators by popular vote.
  - b. Before this ratification, senators were chosen by their states' legislative bodies.
5. **World War I** - 1914-1918
  - a. This war started in Europe in 1914, and the U.S. decided to remain neutral.
  - b. In 1915, a German submarine sunk the **RMS Lusitania**, a British passenger ship. Many were outraged and some Texans wanted the governor to cut ties with Germany. The U.S. remained neutral.
  - c. In 1917, Germany was searching for more allies and tried to make a deal with Mexico. In the **Zimmermann Note**, an intercepted communication, the Germans proposed giving Mexico territory they had lost to the U.S. if they would join them in war.
  - d. The U.S. then joined the Allies and many American soldiers trained at Texas bases. Over 5,000 Texans lost their lives defending their country.



- e. The **Paris Peace Conference** was the meeting of the Allied victors at the end of WWI to set terms for the defeated Axis Powers. There were representatives from more than 32 countries, but the **Big Four** included U.S. President **Woodrow Wilson**, British Prime Minister **David Lloyd George**, French Prime Minister **Georges Clemenceau**, and Italian Prime Minister **Vittorio Emanuele Orlando** who met together informally on 145 occasions. The following decisions were made:
    - (1) The **League of Nations**, a part of Wilson's **Fourteen Point Plan**, was created, although the U.S. Congress never approved the U.S. membership in the organization.
    - (2) The German and Ottoman Empires were divided up and given to Britain and France as a part of the **reparations**.
    - (3) New national boundaries were drawn.
    - (4) Five peace treaties with defeated enemies were crafted, including the primary treaty with Germany, the **Treaty of Versailles**.
      - (a) This treaty laid the blame for the war on "the aggression of Germany and her allies." This humiliated Germany and set the stage for WWII.
      - (b) High reparations were imposed on Germany. It only paid a small part before reparations ended in 1931.
6. Flu Pandemic - 1918-1919
- a. This pandemic, also known as "La Grippe" and the "**Spanish Flu**," occurred on the tail end of WWI and was spread all over the globe by the movements of soldiers.
  - b. It was the deadliest epidemic in recorded history. Some 500 million people around the globe were infected, and some 50 to 100 million died.
  - c. Unlike most forms of influenza, its death rate was the highest for people between the ages of 20 and 40. Much was learned about pandemics.
7. **18<sup>th</sup> Amendment** - Prohibition - 1919
- a. The period known as **Prohibition** began in 1919, when the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution banned the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages.
  - b. It occurred as a result of the Temperance Movement and resulted in people finding creative ways to get around the new law, including bootlegging and opening speakeasies.
  - c. The Amendment was not repealed until 1933, when provisions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment cancelled it out.
8. First Red Scare (1919-1920)
- a. Following the Bolshevik Revolution and WWI, there was intense patriotism by U.S. citizens towards their country. Fear of being taken over by another invading country was on the minds of most people.
  - b. There was a mounting fear that a type of Bolshevik Revolution could begin in the U.S., and this led people to foolish thinking about communism in this country.



**C. 1920 to 1930 (aka the Roaring Twenties)**

1. **Roaring Twenties**
  - a. This was a period of great economic success for the U.S.
  - b. In Texas, this period saw expansion of agriculture, particularly in the Great Plains, and expansion of oil interests.
  - c. The Texas Legislature passed a law in 1923 that allowed political parties to make their own rules for their primaries. This barred some minorities from voting. The Supreme Court later ruled this violated the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
  - d. In the early 1920s, the price of cotton dropped drastically, but cotton acreage continued to increase.
2. **19<sup>th</sup> Amendment - Women's Suffrage - 1920**
  - a. This Amendment ensured that no individual would be denied the right to vote based on their gender.
  - b. It occurred because of the **Women's Suffrage Movement** in the U.S.
  - c. This amendment had first been introduced in 1878, but resurfaced and was finally passed, then ratified, by the states by 1920.
3. **Teapot Dome Scandal - 1921-1922**
  - a. This scandal involved the Secretary of the Interior, Albert Bacon Fall, who served under President **Warren G. Harding**. Fall leased Navy oil reserves on U.S. land in Wyoming and California to private oil companies.
  - b. He took money in return and Fall was convicted of accepting bribes and became the first Cabinet member ever to go to prison.
  - c. This incident damaged the reputation of the Harding administration.
4. **Scopes Trial - 1925-1926**
  - a. Also known as *State of Tennessee v. John Thomas Scopes* or the "Monkey Trial," this court case attempted to make it unlawful to teach the theory of evolution in public schools. Scopes was a substitute high school teacher accused of teaching evolution.
  - b. Scopes was convicted and fined \$100 (about \$1,450 in 2020).
  - c. Scopes' attorney was **Clarence Darrow**, and the prosecutor for the state was **William Jennings Bryan**.
  - d. Scopes' attorney appealed the conviction, and it was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, who overturned the guilty verdict.
5. **Democratic National Convention - 1928**
  - a. The Democratic National Convention was held in Houston.
  - b. This was the first time a nominating convention was held in a southern state.
6. **League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) - 1929**
  - a. Begun primarily by Hispanic veterans of WWI in Corpus Christi, this organization sought to end discrimination against minorities.
  - b. In 1930, LULAC sued the Del Rio ISD for segregating Mexican Americans based on race. The ruling was not completely favorable, but opened roads toward desegregation.