

Texas UIL

SOCIAL STUDIES

FOCUS 2019-20

World, U.S., and Texas history



for grades 7 & 8
based on the annual UIL topic



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UIL Social Studies Focus

Grades 7 & 8

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This booklet covers the annual focus topics and primary source documents as suggested by UIL for the A+ Social Studies Contest. Our companion booklet, *UIL Social Studies Core Concepts for Grades 7 & 8*, covers the background material and general information about the U.S., world, and Texas. The new Core booklet has been revamped entirely from the original Notes. It is an outstanding adjunct to the classroom textbooks and is useful for the UIL contest as well as classroom instruction.

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– President Hexco Inc., Linda Tarrant

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TEXAS

(60% of Test Questions)

EUROPEAN EXPLORATION AND COLONIZATION OF TEXAS

Native Americans lived in Texas from Paleolithic times when European explorers first came to the area. The exploration of Texas dated from about 1519 with Pineda who traveled through the South searching for a water route to the Pacific. Other explorers looked for gold, silver, and riches, such as those that they thought to be in the mythical Seven Cities of Gold. Still later, explorers were simply looking for a new life or were missionaries intent on spreading Christianity to the Native Americans. As news spread that the New World had opened up with great opportunities, people were anxious to risk everything to come and find their fortunes.

Cultures of American Indians in Texas

Native Americans were in Texas for thousands of years, starting with the early migrations from the North. These were typically hunter-gatherer societies that moved where game and food was available. As they learned agriculture, many of these societies turned to more sedentary living. The earliest Native Americans came in three periods of migration.

- **Paleolithic migration** - This period lasted up until about 6000 BC. This society hunted game using spears. Some of the larger animals were driven over cliffs and killed in massive groups.
- **Archaic Era** - As the climate changed to become drier and warmer, the food source changed with seasonal availability. During this period, the Native Americans developed the atlatl. This was a tool that enabled a person to throw a spear with much greater force. For the most part, people still roamed in small groups, but they came together a few times a year for trading and collective hunting. Most tools were made of bone, horn, or stone, and they were crude, but effective. Near end of this period, native people in East Texas formed large settlements.
- **Late Prehistoric** - Between 700 and 1400 AD, settlements were formed by tribes in eastern and western Texas. These were still primarily hunter-gatherers, but they began farming and building more permanent housing. Groups on the Plains were more mobile due to the climate and terrain. Those in the eastern regions were more farming oriented and developed sedentary settlements because agriculture was adaptable to that area.

The varied parts of Texas had Native Americans with different cultures. The cultures were often tied to the geography of the area and the presence or absence of game.

- **Mission Concepción** - This mission was also established in East Texas in 1716 and was abandoned due to French threats from Louisiana. It was reopened in 1721, moved to Austin and then moved to San Antonio in 1731. The current church was completed in 1755. It is the oldest stone church in the U.S. that has not been restored.
- **Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de los Tejas** - This was a presidio with military personnel to protect the East Texas missions. It was also called Presidio de los Dolores and Presidio de los Tejas. It was built by Domingo Ramón on the Neches River and later abandoned when the other missions were abandoned.
- **1718 - Mission San Antonio de Valero** - This first mission along the San Antonio River was established in 1718. It is better known as the Alamo. Being subject to frequent attacks from the Apache, they built a wall around the compound. The buildings housed the Mexican army and then a military hospital in 1806. It was the site of the Battle of the Alamo in the Texas Revolution. It is the first in a chain of missions along the San Antonio River.



The Alamo, San Antonio, TX

Photo credit: Daniel Schwen/ commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alamo_pano_(cropped).jpg

- **1720 - Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo** - Primarily known as the Mission San José in Texas, this mission was built along the San Antonio River and served the Coahuiltecan natives. It housed many of the missionaries who fled from East Texas, and it is known as "Queen of the Missions."

Timeline of Colonies

The empresario system allowed groups of families to colonize in defined areas, first under Spanish and Mexican control and later under the Republic of Texas.

- **Austin Colony** - (1824) The first empresarios grant was made under Spanish control to Moses Austin, but he died before he could bring settlers. His son, Stephen F. Austin, carried out the plans to bring 300 families between 1824 and 1828. Each family received 177 acres if they intended to farm or 4,428 acres if they were raising livestock. The grant included land from the Gulf of Mexico to near present-day Brenham. The settlers became known as the "Old Three Hundred." They were required to be Catholic, but most were Protestant. The Mexican government was lenient in this.

- c. 1400 - The beginning of the Caddo Confederacy in East Texas occurred during this period. Their society was based on agriculture, and they lived in very large communities.
- **c. 1500 AD-1800 AD** - Europeans explored and settled the Texas area, starting with the Spanish conquistadors.
 - 1542 - Horses were brought by the conquistadors during the early part of this period, and many were ultimately left and taken by the Indians for their own use.
 - 1731 – The first elections were held in Texas by the Canary Island immigrants who elected the government for San Fernando de Béxar.
 - 1766 - The first recorded hurricane on the Texas coast came ashore near Galveston.
 - 1824-1827 - Coahuila and Texas (Coahuila y Tejas) joined as single Mexican state. The Anglos came and settled as Mexican citizens. A constitution was written for this state.
- **1800-1900** - This period saw the Mexican Revolution end with Mexico gaining independence from Spain and Texas becoming more populated with settlers from the U.S. and Europe who didn't want to be under the control of Mexico. Towns were expanding, and changes were underway that were leading to the Texas Revolution.
 - 1813 - The first newspaper in Texas was founded by José Alvarez de Toledo in Nacogdoches.
 - 1817-1820 - Galveston Island was occupied by Jean Laffite, and pirates used it as a base.
 - 1829 - The U.S. offered to buy Texas from Mexico, but they were turned down shortly after the Law of April 6 was enacted by Mexico, which was intended to stop American immigration to Texas. This led to revolution six years later. The next step toward the revolution was in the form of the Turtle Bayou Resolutions signed by Texans that suggested independence from Mexico. For the first time, the Lone Star Flag was flown.
 - 1833 - The first state constitution was drafted by a convention of Texans. At this time, Santa Anna was president of Mexico. Stephen F. Austin visited him in Mexico City and proposed separation of Texas and Coahuila, which was a combined state in Mexico at this time. Austin was arrested for trying to start a revolution and imprisoned.

- **unlimited government** - typical of monarchies and many current dictatorships which are run by leaders who answer to no one; power emanated from leader who makes all rules and laws
- **veto** - act by the president to prevent a bill from becoming law which can then be overturned in Congress; Texas governor also has this power at the state level
- **voting** - right in a democracy to express your opinion or viewpoint on an issue on candidate for office who will be your representative in the governing body

CULTURE

Basically, culture is how people live their lives. It includes, language, religion, food, clothing, and customs. The culture of Texas is very much a melting pot of the cultures brought here from the South and the Southwest mixed with pockets of ethnic groups. The open ranges added a ranching and cowboy element that is present in many parts of Texas. Names of places, foods and plants all over Texas are reminiscent of the various cultures that settled this state, some being German, some Czech, some Spanish, some Dutch, and more.

Spanish Influence on Place Names and Vocabulary

The Spanish influence touched much of Texas since they were the first explorers and controlled the area in the early history of the state. This influence is found in names of foods and plants, geographic names of rivers and towns, and architectural names. Many of these were taken directly from Spanish, and others were merely Anglicized.

- Spanish names for cities and rivers are found throughout the state, as Amarillo, El Paso, Guadalupe, Nueces, Rio Grande, San Saba, Santa Maria, San Antonio, and more.
- Many geographic features are Spanish words or derived from a Spanish word, such as "arroyo," "mesa," "canyon," and "savannah."
- Architecture terms that come directly from Spanish include the following: adobe, cafeteria, hacienda, patio, plaza, pueblo, ranch, remuda, and veranda.
- Names of food and plants that come from Spanish include: avocado, banana, barbeque, chili, chocolate, enchilada, maize, mesquite, olive, potato, taco, tobacco, tortilla, vanilla, and yucca.
- Names of many animals in Texas are derived from Spanish including: armadillo, coyote, iguana, jaguar, llama, and manatee.

- **Daughters of the Republic of Texas** - This group was established in 1891 and is the oldest patriotic women's organization in Texas.
- **HemisFair** - This event took place in 1968. It was the first world's fair in the Southwest. It marked the 250th anniversary of the founding of San Antonio. The theme was "The Confluence of Civilizations in the Americas."
- **J. A. Ranch** - Established in 1876 in Palo Duro Canyon, this ranch is the oldest privately owned cattle operation in Panhandle. It was started by Charles Goodnight and his financial partner, John Adair.



King Ranch Main Building (1915)
Wikimedia Commons/ Public Domain

- **King Ranch** - This ranch was established in 1853 in South Texas between Corpus Christi and Brownsville. It is the largest ranch in the U.S. It was founded by Captain Richard King and Gideon K. Lewis.
- **Lone Star Flag** - The official Texas Flag has a vertical blue stripe on the left with a white star, and on the right it has an horizontal white stripe over a red stripe. It was adopted in 1839 by the Republic of Texas. The original designer is unknown.
- **Menger Hotel** - Built in 1858 by a German immigrant, William Menger, this was a boarding house. It was later a hotel. Theodore Roosevelt recruited Rough Riders at this location to fight in Cuba in the Spanish-American War. Other guests included O. Henry, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Mae West, and Oscar Wilde.
- **mission** - This is a religious community established to convert local populations to Christianity, particularly indigenous populations.
- **Nuns of the Ursuline** - This group came to Texas in 1847 to build a Catholic day and boarding school in Galveston, Ursuline Academy. Later schools were built in San Antonio and Dallas.

WORLD

(10-15% of Test Questions)

GOVERNMENT AND CITIZENSHIP CONCEPTS

There are many types of governments, and within a government, the people are citizens.

Limited Government vs. Unlimited Government

A limited government is one that is restricted by law in the manner the officials govern and conduct business. In comparison, an unlimited government is usually a monarchy or a dictatorship run by leaders who answer to no one. Nazi Germany was an example of a dictatorship. Britain slowly went from a monarchy to a limited government, which is now in the form of a Parliament with a prime minister, all of which are elective offices. There is still a monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, but she is a figurehead, not a governing entity.

Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens

- Responsibilities of citizens are far-reaching. Citizens hold the power in a representative government as they have the responsibility for electing officials that will represent their interests. If a representative does not hold up to the voter's standards, that representative can be replaced by the voters.
- Civic-minded people also feel a responsibility to stay informed about what the government is doing and how their elected officials are voting on issues that affect them. This group also feels a sense of community to their area and are often willing to volunteer for community events, clean-up, and area improvement.
- Other responsibilities of citizens include abiding by the laws, performing jury duty when selected, and a willingness to defend the nation if necessary.

World Government Terms Glossary

- **absolute monarchy** - all power is in the hands of the leader or monarch
- **apartheid** - (from 1948-1994) system of legalized racial segregation in South Africa, meaning separateness in Afrikaans
- **communism** - characterized by the government owning almost everything; collected property and wealth distributed to all members of this society with each getting a portion of the accumulated value; elimination of private property

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