

7th Grade PACE Texas History – First Semester

Early Texas and its People

The unit is designed to introduce the foundations of Texas culture and the year-long theme of change. Students will explore the geographical regions of Texas. They will learn about early American Indian cultures in Texas and how those cultures adapted to and modified their environments. Students will study the European explorers of Texas, how they changed the American Indian cultures, and how they affected the culture of Texas today. The idea of change is incorporated throughout this unit – how cultures change in response to their environments, how the interactions of culture groups have changed the culture of Texas, and how the students themselves have changed since they began middle school. This theme of change will continue throughout the year.

Students will be able to independently use their learning to ...

- analyze and explain how different cultures influence each other to create a unique Texas culture.
- analyze and explain how cultures adapt to and change their environment.

Students will show that they really understand by evidence of...

- Create a museum exhibit displaying adaptations of Texas Indian tribes.
 - Write a journal entry from the point of view of a 13 year old child in a Texas Indian tribe.
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Revolutions

The unit takes students through the development of Texas from the Spanish mission system through the Texas Revolution. Students will see how the culture of Texas changed as different groups of people arrived in Texas. They will learn about the individuals and events that contributed to these changes.

Students will be able to independently use their learning to ...

- evaluate differing points of view on a revolution.
- analyze how individual leadership can have a significant role in affecting change

Students will show that they really understand by evidence of...

- researching and applying a significant individual's point of view
 - comparing and contrasting two opposing points of view
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Republic to Reconstruction

The unit takes students through the progression of Texas as an independent republic, to a state in the United States, and through the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. Students will see the challenges Texans faced as an independent nation, in attempting to join the U.S., as a state during the Mexican War, during the Civil War, and in gaining re-admittance to the Union during Reconstruction. They will learn how various people held vastly differing opinions on what they believed was best for the country, both in Texas and in the United States.

Students will be able to independently use their learning to ...

- analyze and relate how people impact government.
- explain how differing opinions may work toward a common goal.
- analyze the consequences of maintaining a steadfast political position

Students will show that they really understand by evidence of...

- researching a current political issue and the opposing viewpoints on that issue
- expressing their opinion on the issue during a philosophical chairs discussion
- writing a reflection on the process of forming opinions

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Growth and Development

The unit focuses on the economic development of Texas from Reconstruction to the 21st century. Students will see how Texas changed from an agrarian to urban society and investigate the causes of that change. The class will study specific events such as Spindletop, the Galveston Storm, and the Texas City Disaster and their effects on the Texas economy. The students will then use their knowledge to predict how an industry might affect a fictional town.

Students will be able to independently use their learning to ...

- evaluate the positive and negative consequences of economic development

Students will show that they really understand by evidence of...

- researching the impact of an economic industry upon towns
 - writing a persuasive letter to an elected official
 - expressing their point of view in a mock city council meeting
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Changing Texas and Texans

This unit focuses on the impact Texas made on the rest of the nation and world in the 20th century. Students will see how Texas had multiple people and events that shaped society. The class will study specific events such as The Progressive Era, Civil Rights, and desegregation. Students will also learn about people such as Lyndon B. Johnson, Henry Gonzales, Lyndon B. Johnson, James Farmer, Hector P. Garcia and Barbara Jordan. Students will use their knowledge to create a Humanities piece that reflects what they have researched and learned during the unit.

Students will be able to independently use their learning to ...

- evaluate how society and the Humanities impact each other.
- analyze how change can foster progress.
- explain how assuming another's perspective broadens understanding; thereby fostering intellectual openness.

Students will show they really understand by evidence of ...

- researching a historical event from the 20th century.
- Explain how a Humanities piece reflects a historical event.
- Create a Humanities piece that reflects a personal opinion or emotion.