



Social Studies & Language Arts Activity: Grades 3-5

Activity One: ***Symbols of Texas***

What you need:

- Library time/Classroom set of reference books
- List of your own topics
- Computer/Internet access (where available)

What to do:

1. Divide the students into as many as eight groups.
2. Assign a Texas state symbol (the pecan tree, the bluebonnet, the mockingbird, the Lone Star, topaz, etc.) to each group.
3. Take the groups to the library or provide them with resource books.
4. Have the groups find out all they can about their symbols.
5. Have each group prepare one report about their symbol for their class.
6. Encourage the groups to be creative in their presentations, using art, movement, poetry, creative dramatics or music.

* This activity can also be adapted for learning about the six flags of Texas

TEKS

SOCIAL STUDIES Grade 4: 17A, 22C, 23C

LANGUAGE ARTS Grade 4: 2B, 5A-D, 7A, 8B-C, 10A, 11B, 13C, 13G, 15C, 21E, 22A, 18C

Activity Two: ***Social Studies: Map Skills***

What you need:

- Texas Road maps and Texas resource book
- Copies of Texas Map (hand-out one)
- Map colors, crayons or markers

What to do:

1. Go over the vocabulary listed provided with the students.
 2. Give each student a copy of the Texas map.
 3. Explain to the students that they are going to place their own symbols for the words you have just discussed on the map provided.
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- Using their resource books and maps they need to place all of the words where they belong within the state of Texas.
 - Do two or three examples with them. Encourage the students to be creative.



VOCABULARY WORDS

- ? Dallas
- ? Cactus
- ? Fort Worth
- ? Mesquite
- ? Hardwood
- ? Ships
- ? San Antonio
- ? Prairie Grass
- ? Austin
- ? Corn
- ? Arid climate
- ? Armadillo
- ? El Paso
- ? Jack Rabbit
- ? Fish
- ? Houston
- ? Shrimp
- ? Cattle
- ? Beaumont
- ? Roadrunner
- ? Alligator
- ? Gulf of Mexico
- ? Oil Wells
- ? Citrus Fruit
- ? Cotton
- ? Wheat
- ? Humid Climate
- ? New Mexico
- ? Oklahoma
- ? Louisiana
- ? Arkansas
- ? Rio Grande
- ? Colorado River
- ? Red River
- ? Pecos River
- ? Trinity River
- ? Brazos River

TEKS

SOCIAL STUDIES Grade 4: 2A, 2C, 2E, 3A-C, 6B, 7B, 17A, 22C

LANGUAGE ARTS Grade 4: 9A, 13G, 16A

Museum programs related to these activities:

- *The Texas History Tour*
- *"Ways of the West" Hands on Exhibit*
- *"Many Faces of Texas" Exhibit*

Reservations contact information: ArtReach Booking Service (214) 219-2049
