



## Social Studies & Language Arts Activity: Middle School Grades 6-8

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### ***Activity One:***

#### ***Language Arts: Mini Research Paper***

##### ***What you need:***

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

##### ***What to do:***

1. Have students chose one of the fifty states in the nation to write a mini-research paper about.
2. The paper should focus on the symbols used by the state (i.e., bird, song, flower, tree, gem, animal, etc.).
3. Have the students draw or cut out pictures of all of the symbols and attractively bind the finished product together in a folder.
4. Have the students present their state to the class.

\* This activity can also be adapted for learning specifically about the state of Texas

#### **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

#### **TEKS**

**SOCIAL STUDIES Grade 7:** 19A, 21A, 21C, 22B, 22D

**LANGUAGE ARTS Grade 7:** 2A, 2C, 7A, 7C, 10F, 10G, 13A, 13C-D, 13F, 13I, 15C, 16A-B, 17A, 17C, 24A



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## ***Activity Two:***

### ***Social Studies: Current Events: Texas in the News***

#### ***What you need:***

- Bulletin Board
- Newspapers
- White butcher paper with the headline, *Texas in the News*

#### ***What to do:***

1. Place subheadings under the main headline, such as Education, Economy, Government, People, etc.
2. Have the students bring in appropriate articles relating to each subheading.
3. Mount the articles on construction paper and attach them to the bulletin board.
4. Discuss the articles, why they are important and/or relevant to Texas and the world at large.
5. If stories are on-going, have students follow up on them.

\* This activity can also be done for U.S. or World history.

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

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#### **TEKS**

**SOCIAL STUDIES Grade 7:** 13C, 15A-B, 17A, 19A, 21B, 21G

**LANGUAGE ARTS Grade 7:** 6A-C, 7A, 8C, 10A, 10F, 11A, 13A

