

Newspaper of the 1800s “A Centennial Celebration” - Grade 7

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Lesson Overview: Students will use creative writing to create a Centennial Newspaper paying homage to the 1800s. Students will express their perceptions and impressions about history, politics, geography, environment, economics, and culture.

TEKS §113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7.

- The student understands traditional historical points of reference in Texas history. **History 7.1 (A, B, C)**
- The student understands how individuals, events, and issues related to the Texas Revolution shaped the history of Texas. **History 7.3 (A, B)**
- The student understands how individuals, events, and issues shaped the history of the Republic of Texas and early Texas statehood. **History 7.4 (A, B)**
- The student understands the location and characteristics of places and regions of Texas. **Geography 7.9 (A)**
- The student understands the effects of the interaction between humans and the environment in Texas during the 19th and 20th centuries. **Geography 7.10 (A, B)**
- The student understands the characteristics, distribution and migration of population in Texas in the 19th and 20th centuries. **Geography 7.11 (A, B, C)**
- The student understands the importance of the expression of different points of view in a democratic society. **Citizenship 7.17 (C)**
- The student understands the importance of effective leadership in a democratic society. **Citizenship 7.18 (A)**
- The student understands the concept of diversity within unity in Texas. **Culture 7.19 (A, B)**
- The student understands the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the political, economic, and social development of Texas. **Science, technology, and society 7.20 (A, C, E, F)**
- The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of sources including electronic technology. **Social Studies skills 7.21 (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H)**
- The student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms. **Social Studies skills 7.22 (A, B, C, D)**
- The student uses problem-solving and decision-making skills, working independently and with others, in a variety of settings. **Social Studies skills 7.23 (B)**

Note: This lesson should be used as an extension of the material that has been taught about history, politics, geography, environment, economics, and culture of the 1800s.

Engage/ Activating Prior Knowledge

The teacher will hold up a newspaper and ask the students about the design, layout, and the components of a good newspaper. The teacher will share the different sections of the newspaper with the students. The teacher will ask if the students could produce a newspaper in groups and what kind of jobs and skills group members would have to possess in order to create a good newspaper.

Explore: The teacher will project Texas Tides Resources:
[Adolphus Stern Home articles](#)
[Sam Houston articles](#)

Students will recognize and review the components of a newspaper page. The teacher will project and explain the instructions and rubric. Students will log on to [TIDES](#) to begin their research and gather materials for their project. The teacher will help guide the students during their research.

Activity

In small groups students will create a handwritten centennial newspaper of the 1800s. Students will be working together to research and cover events of the 1800s. Students must include attention-grabbing headlines and illustrations. Each group member will have several jobs in composing articles and drawings. Students will become researchers, editors, page designers, publishers, illustrators, etc.

Assessment

Student participation and rubric for the Centennial Newspaper Project.

Extension

In order to celebrate the 1800s, students will share their newspapers during an outdoor class picnic. Students will bring food and play various games from the 1800s.

Materials:

[TIDES Resources of the 1800s](#)
[The Handbook of Texas Online](#)
[The Texas Almanac](#)

Textbooks, computers

White bulletin board paper (cut to the size of a newspaper)

Writing utensils

Newspapers

Transparency of instructions and rubric

Created August, 2007

Instructions for Newspaper Article

Texas Newspaper Project – The 18th Century in Texas History.

- Due date: _____
- Your task: Have fun in developing a Texas Centennial Newspaper

Your paper has to be handwritten and the events you write about have to be historically correct; use your research materials.

- Articles including the headlines should be about ½ of a regular size notebook page (5 ½ x 8 ½)
- Be sure you have a Title – Name of your Newspaper in big letters about 1inch or larger.
- You can use your last name or just make up a name – be creative.

Example: Miguel's Ink Stain, The Reagan Gazette, Madisonville Highlights, Hanks Chronicle etc.

- Date: The 1800's - Remember, keep your writings historically correct.
- Editors names (you and your partners)
- The cost of your paper

Newspaper Project Rubric

Names: _____

Title: 10 points

Cost of Paper: 2 points Editor's Names: 2 points Date: 2 points

Articles including the headlines should be about 1/2 of a regular size notebook page (5 1/2 x 8 1/2)

Two articles about Political News	4	8	12	16	points
Economic News	2	4	6	8	10
Agricultural News	2	4	6	8	10
Event / Entertainment	2	4	6	8	10
Advertisements	2	4	6	8	
Recipe from the 1800th	2	4	6		
Fashion of the 1800th	2	4	6		
Your choice	2	4	6		
Drawings	2	4	6		
Extra Effort	2	4	6		

Subtotal:

Total :

Comments:

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Graded by:
