

THE YELLOW ROSE OF TEXAS

Kirstin Schulz
Eunice Smith
2400 N Henry
Alton IL 62002

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Preview of Main Ideas

Texas is a world unto itself. It is a magnificent place with breathtaking beauty. In order to prepare my students for a historical study of the Alamo, I plan to introduce them to the geography of Texas first. The students need to understand the state's plants and animals, its layout, its climate, and its size.

Connection With The Curriculum

These activities may be used in Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Art, and Music.

Teaching Level: Grades 3-5

Objectives

The students will be able to:

- Create books about the state of Texas
- Locate various cities, landforms, and rivers in Texas
- Describe and draw various plants and animals found in Texas
- Compare the size of Texas to the size of Illinois
- Create graphs on the climate of Texas

- Develop a letter to a fictional character

Standards

Geography standards: The World in Spatial Terms #1, Places and Regions #4-5-6, Environment and Society #14

Illinois standards: #16a, #16d, #17a, #18b

Theme: Location, Place, Movement, Regions, Human-Environment Interaction

Materials

- Words to the song “Yellow Rose of Texas”
- Audio tape of “The Yellow Rose of Texas”
- Book, Susanna of the Alamo
- Cut out shape of Texas
- Construction paper
- Markers, scissors, glue
- Atlases
- Resource books and maps of Texas

Introduction

Pass out the words to the song “The Yellow Rose of Texas”

Play the song as you and the students learn to sing the song.

* audio and verses of this song can be found at
www.lsjunction.com/midi/songs.htm

After the students have become familiar with the song and are thinking about Texas, have them do a KWL chart about the state.

Activity

The students are going to create a book about the state of Texas.

The students can either draw a large outline shape of Texas or you can copy and enlarge one for them.

Have the students cut 8 of the Texas cut outs.

* 2 for the front and back covers and 6 for the pages of the book.

The students can design and color the covers of the book however they wish.

Page one of the book is a political map on which the students will locate and label the capital city and other major cities.

Page two is a physical map on which the students will label the major rivers and landforms found in Texas.

*You can give them a list of what you want labeled or allow them to choose.

Page three will include the history of when Texas was an independent country.

Have the students research this time and write the name of the country,

The President's name, draw a flag of the country, and the dates of when

Republic of Texas existed.

Page four is to be about the plants and animals found in Texas. Have the

Students research, draw, and describe various plants and animals found in

the state of Texas.

Page five will look at the climate of Texas. Have the students create a graph

depicting the yearly average temperature of Texas and a graph depicting

the yearly average precipitation of Texas.

Page six is a comparison between the size of Texas to the size of Illinois.

Have students research and draw an outline shape of each state that shows

this comparison.

Closure

As a closing activity and as a lead into another activity on the Alamo, read Susanna of the Alamo by John Jakes, Voyager Books/Harcourt Brace & Company, 1990.

ISBN: 0152005951

Extension

Have the students write a letter to Susanna.

Research, learn, and sing other state songs.

Have your students read their books to lower grade students

Add the location of the Alamo to the book. Then using a map of Texas plot the

distance from the Alamo to the other major cities in the book.

Make three consecutive maps showing Texas as part of Mexico, Texas as an independent country, and the Texas as part of the United States.

Assessment

Completed book of Texas

Letter to Susanna of the Alamo