

Timeline for the Western Texas Frontier

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Subject: Social Studies

Grade level: 4 and 7

Rationale or Purpose: By constructing a timeline of events on the western Texas frontier, students will understand the rapid changes in population, settlement, migration, transportation, and political control of Texas as it expanded westward.

Materials: <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/forts/36-44.html>, computers, paper, colored markers, and pens

Objectives:

- Social Studies 7.1C, explain significant dates in Texas history
- Social Studies 7.4A, identify important events from the Republic to Statehood
- Social Studies 7.6A, identify significant events from Reconstruction to the early 20th century
- Social Studies 4.1A, identify Native American groups in Texas
- Social Studies 4.1B, compare Native American and European American ways of life
- Social Studies 4.22A, 7.21A, use primary sources
- Social Studies 4.22B, 7.21B, analyze information by sequencing
- Social Studies 4. 22C, 7.21 C, organize information into timelines

Activity:

Step 1: Students can work in pairs or individually at the computer to use the Timeline of Texas and the Western Frontier web site.

Step 2: Students construct an illustrated timeline with the following dates: 1836, 1845, 1848, 1854, 1861, 1866, 1872, 1879, 1882. Students choose one event for each year and illustrate it on the timeline.

Step 3: Students share their timelines with the class, explaining why they selected certain events.

Modification: Teachers may select fewer dates for the timeline, as appropriate.

Student Product: illustrated timeline

Closure: Students use their timelines and the web site to answer the following questions. Questions using the student timeline only are marked with a star:

1. * When did Sam Houston first become President of the Republic of Texas? (1836)
2. When did the capital of Texas move from Houston to Austin? (1839)
3. * When did Texas become a state in the United States? (1845)
4. * When was the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo? (1848)
5. When were the current state boundaries of Texas established? (1850)
6. When was the Goodnight-Loving Trail established? (1866)
7. When was the Red River War? (1874)
8. When did the town of San Angelo receive its name? (1879)
9. How many years did Cynthia Ann Parker live with the Comanches? (24 years 1836 to 1860)
10. * Approximately how many years was it from the time of the Texas Revolution to the time the Texas and Pacific Railroad reached El Paso from Ft. Worth? (46 years 1836 to 1882)

Assessment or evaluation: the illustrated timeline and closure questions