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](http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/forts/36-44.html), computers, paper, colored markers, and pens

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

Social Studies, 4th Grade
- Social Studies 114.6 (1A), identify Native-American groups in Texas and describe the regions in which they lived
- Social Studies 114.6 (1B), compare the ways of life of Native-American groups in Texas
- Social Studies 114.6 (22A use primary and secondary sources
- Social Studies 114.6 (22B), analyze information by sequencing
- Social Studies 114.6 (22C), organize and interpret information in timelines

Social Studies, 7th Grade
- Social Studies 113.23 (1C), explain the significance of the following dates: 1836, 1845 and 1861
- Social Studies 113.23 (4A), Identify events and issues during early Texas statehood
- Social Studies 113.23 (6A), identify significant individuals, events, and issues from Reconstruction through the beginning of the 20th century

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

Extension: Have students learn more about the Red River War at: http://www.texasbeyonddhistory.net/redriver/index.html