

Educational Resource

Suggested Research Projects/Topics



Texian Market Days

Texian Market Days is an immense source of data for student research. Its value is increased by the fact that much of the information available is to be found in forms far different than those typical of libraries. Artifacts, interviews, re-enactments, architecture, music, dance, demonstrations, and food can serve as exciting sources for the young investigator. The following is a list of topics for research that teachers can adapt to the needs of particular themes or units. Suggested social studies TAAS correlations are included.

Because of its considerable representation of time (1830's - 1940's), Texian Market Days serves as a virtual time machine, enabling students to concentrate on specific periods or trace evolutions. It is a setting, which particularly supports the analysis of cause and effect (8.2) in lifestyles, culture, economics, and transportation.

Probably no other source brings into contrast the Texas of the past and the Texas of today as vividly as Texian Market Days. Most of the topics listed can be addressed as studies in comparison and contrast (8.1). You can suggest topics to your students, arm them with blank diagrams, and turn them loose.

Political background and causes of the Texas Revolution (5.4)
The role of firearms in early Texas
Making a living in early Texas (2.3, 2.4, 2.5)
Blacksmiths/Gunsmiths
Ranching
Pioneer cooking and other house hold tasks
Quilting
Herb Growing Cotton and Wool Dyeing
Livestock care, Soap Making
Leather working
Corn shucking, shelling, grinding, and hoe-cake baking
Sugar cane production on the Brazos (2.4,2.5)
Life in the 1830's - The Jones Stock Farm
Life in the 1890's - The JHP Davis House
Life in the 1940's - The George Ranch
Victorian architecture in early Texas
The cattle industry in 19th and/or 20th century Texas (2.3,2.4,2.5)
Cowboy camp - life on the trail
The chuck wagon
The life of women in various periods of Texas history
Culture of Native Americans (6.1)
Recreation in early Texas (6.3)
Dancing
Painting
Music
Games
Literature
Sports
Storytelling
Education in Texas history - how and for whom
The role of religion in the history of Texas
The effects of changing technology - economic, social, etc.
The evolution of military tactics and/or equipment
Customs and mores of Texas past
Geography, communication, and population as factors in the Texas Revolution
Geography as a factor in the settlement of Texas (4.2)
Profile of the Confederate soldier
The long rifle and the Texas Revolution
Horse and Texans - their long and eventful relationship
The lure of Texas = who came and who (5.7)
Lifestyles of the rich and famous - the Davis and George families
Ranch and domestic staff - role and lifestyle
Children of early Texas - growing up on the frontier
The importance and evolution of transportation in Texas
Encounter - the effect of colonization on Native Americans
Lives of slaves and free Africans in early Texas (61.)
Shelter - the evolution of housing styles in Texas
Wardrobe - the evolution of clothing styles in Texas