



Suggestions for Field Lesson Instructional Plans

for

TEXAS, OUR TEXAS: The Story of the Bayou City

LANGUAGE ARTS

- i The play is told by generous serpent, clever coyote, strong buffalo and creative owl. Which of these animals would you like and why?
- i Owl tells the story of thunder boy and lightning girl. This is considered a folk tale. What elements does it have in common with other folk tales?
- i What makes folk tales different from other types of stories?

MATHEMATICS

- i In the Battle of the Alamo, the Texan Army had 180 men while Santa Ana had 1,500 soldiers in the Mexican army. How many Mexican soldiers would each Texas have to have fought?
- i If each of Cabeza de Vaca's men could carry 800 ounces of gold, how many men would it take to load 250 pounds of gold onto the ship? A 500 pounds? How would the field mice be affected by the angle of the plank walking up to the ship?

HISTORY

- i Sam Houston lived in Tennessee for a short time. What other contributions to history and culture have come from Tennessee?
- i Who was Jane Long? What were schools like in Jane Long's time compared to the schools of today?
- i Create a state flag to symbolize a particular event in Texas history.
- i Have your classroom conduct an entire day as if you were in the 1800s - no TV, computers or video. Use only chalk and chalkboard and have the students share books.

GEOGRAPHY

- i There are four regions in the state of Texas: the Coastal Plains, the North Central Plains, the Great Plains, and the Mountain and Basin region. Make a chart of the basic differences, such as elevation, rainfall, foliage, wildlife and distinguishing features or landmarks.
- i You must travel to Washington DC to represent the great state of Texas, and you may ride horseback, take a covered wagon, or walk. Based upon the distance and your choice of transportation, how long would it take you to arrive at your chosen destination.

- i How was travel different in the 1900s? What were the limitations? What were the advantages?

SCIENCE

- i Houston is known for its oil industry. And oil spills are a part of that industry. Oil floats on water because it is less dense so it can be skimmed from the water's surface. Obtain four liquids of varying density (corn syrup, salt water, water, and rubbing alcohol are good choices) and color code them with food coloring. Poke clear straws into a raw potato wedge and challenge students to create liquid layers by using an eye dropper to place liquids in the straw. Once the liquids are layered correctly, the layers will be very distinct.
- i Use the Great Storm of 1900 to springboard a study on hurricanes.
- i There are many recognizable plants in Texas: bluebonnets, cactus, and Indian paintbrush. What are the differences in environments in which these flowers grow?
- i Yellow fever was one of several epidemics in Texas in the 1800's. What are the ways in which different diseases can be spread? What precautions can be taken to avoid disease?