How Did Texas Grow One City at a Time?
Case Study: Austin
Grade 7, Texas History

Step 1 – Ask

Objectives:
Students will analyze the impact of geographic, political, social and economic factors that contributed to the growth of Austin, Texas.

Introduction:

Ask:
★ What are your first impressions of the photo above?
★ Does it seem as if there is room for urbanization? Why or why not?
★ What landforms are visible in the picture?

Vocabulary:
★ urbanization – growth of cities
★ rural – in the country (outside of the city)
★ urban – in the city

TEKS:
(7.8 B) analyze and interpret geographic distributions and patterns in Texas during the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries.
(7.9 A) locate the Mountains and Basins, Great Plains, North Central Plains, and Coastal Plains regions and places of importance in Texas during the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries such as major cities, rivers, natural and historic landmarks, political and cultural regions, and local points of interest.
(7.12 A) explain economic factors that led to the urbanization of Texas.
(7.21 A) differentiate between, locate, and use primary and secondary sources such as computer software, databases, media and news services, biographies, interviews, and artifacts to acquire information about Texas.
(7.21B) analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions.
(7.21C) organize and interpret information from outlines, reports, databases, and visuals including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps.
(7.21D) identify points of view from the historical context surrounding an event and the frame of reference that influenced the participants.
(7.21E) support a point of view on a social studies issue or event.

Bird’s Eye View of Austin, Texas, before 1910. Prints and Photographs Collection, Texas State Library and Archives. 1946/1-207
Step 2 – Investigate

Texas State Library and Archives Resources:


EBSCO Resources:


Additional Websites:

★ Urbanization: http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hyunw

★ Austin, TX: http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hda03

★ Austin History Center: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/ahc/briefhistory.htm

Use the above resources to record information on the concept map on the next page. Think about the following when using the primary sources above:

★ What message is the source trying to communicate?

★ Who is the intended audience for this source?

★ What parts of the source informs you about the topic of the lesson?

★ Which sources support or refute your original thoughts about the topic?

Technology Application TEKS:

(6A) Determine and employ methods to evaluate the electronic information for accuracy and validity

(6B) Resolve information conflicts and validate information through accessing, researching, and comparing data

(6C) Demonstrate the ability to identify the source, location, media type, relevancy, and content validity of available information

(7A) Plan, create, and edit documents created with a word processor using readable fonts, alignment, page setup, tabs, and ruler settings

(7E) Create a document using desktop publishing techniques including, but not limited to, the creation of multi-column or multi-section documents with a variety of text-wrapped frame formats

(10A) Use productivity tools to create effective document files for defined audiences such as slide shows, posters, multimedia presentations, newsletters, brochures, or reports

(10D) Demonstrate appropriate use of fonts, styles, and sizes, as well as effective use of graphics and page design to effectively communicate

(11A) Publish information in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, printed copy, monitor display, Internet documents, and video
Step 3 – Create

Students can work individually or with partners to create a concept map that organizes the information they learned about Texas. Here are some suggested topics that could be included:

- **Technology Link** – Students may use graphic organizer software such as Inspiration, draw a table in a word processor, or use an online graphic organizer, such as [http://bubbl.us](http://bubbl.us).

Allow students to share their information with another group or as a whole class.

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Reasons for City Growth in the early 1900s

Geographic Reasons
(immigration, migration, land use, population distribution, etc.)

Economic Reasons
(trade, industry, business, etc.)

Social Reasons
(points of interest, culture, etc.)

Political Reasons
(regulation, elections, laws, etc.)
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Step 4 – Discuss

Students may choose one of the following projects to complete:

★ Design and create a mural that reflects the reasons why the city grew in the early 1900s. Be sure to include pictures and ideas that reflect the major reasons for the city’s growth.
★ Design and write a newspaper that includes articles about the political, social, economic or geographic reasons why the city grew. Be sure to include pictures and ideas that reflect the city’s growth.
★ Design a website that explains the political, social, economic, or geographic reasons why the city grew. Be sure to include graphics, articles, and links to places to get more information.

☉ Technology Link - Students can use Microsoft Word or Publisher to develop their products. Use the EBSCO image collection to help you find images of Texas.

Step 5 – Reflect

Allow students to present their projects to the rest of the class. Use the following suggested rubric to assess the students’ work. Make sure that the students are familiar with the rubric before they begin creating their project. They should refer to the rubric repeatedly to monitor their progress in creating their project.

☉ Technology Link: You can also create your own rubric with your students at http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php.
Teacher Name:___________________________________________________

Student(s) Name(s): ______________________________________________

**Mural : Texas Cities Grow**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thematic Accuracy</td>
<td>The student's portion of the mural fits the theme of the assignment and all of the team's items are accurately placed on the background. Example: Student has drawn a dwarf palm and has placed it in the understory layer in a rainforest mural.</td>
<td>The student's portion of the mural fits the theme of the assignment and most of the team's items are accurately placed on the background.</td>
<td>The student's portion of the mural fits the theme of the assignment.</td>
<td>The student's portion of the mural does not fit the theme of the assignment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning/organization</td>
<td>Student can describe the intent and plan of complete mural and how his/her part will contribute to the whole. Works with team to come up with a general plan of what will be done before beginning.</td>
<td>Student has carefully planned his/her part of the mural and can describe how s/he will get the work done and a vision for his/her part. Gets team input on plan for his/her contribution before beginning.</td>
<td>Student has planned his/her part of the mural and can describe how s/he will get the work done and a vision for his/her part. Does not solicit much group input when making plan.</td>
<td>Leaps into action without any evidence of planning or focus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawings</td>
<td>Drawings are recognizable, detailed and colored accurately. Overall, the drawing are original and skillful.</td>
<td>Drawings are recognizable and colored accurately. Overall, the drawings are original and done with some skill.</td>
<td>Drawings are recognizable and reasonably accurate. They are copied, printed or traced rather than original.</td>
<td>Drawn objects are difficult to recognize AND/OR not accurate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content Accuracy</td>
<td>Student is able to explain with 90-100% the geographic, political, social or economic reasons why the city grew.</td>
<td>Student is able to explain with 80-90% the geographic, political, social or economic reasons why the city grew.</td>
<td>Student is able to explain with 70-80% the geographic, political, social or economic reasons why the city grew.</td>
<td>Student is able to explain less than 70% of the geographic, political, social or economic reasons why the city grew.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teacher Name: ______________________________________________________

Student(s) Name(s): ________________________________________________

Newspaper: Texas Cities Grow

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<td>Knowledge Gained</td>
<td>All students in the group can accurately answer all questions related to a) stories in the newspaper and b) technical processes used to create the newspaper.</td>
<td>All students in the group can accurately answer most questions related to a) stories in the newspaper and b) technical processes used to create the newspaper.</td>
<td>Most students in the group can accurately answer most questions related to a) stories in the newspaper and b) technical processes used to create the newspaper.</td>
<td>Several students in the group appear to have little knowledge about the facts and the technical processes used for the newspaper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles - Purpose</td>
<td>90-100% of the articles establish a clear purpose in the lead paragraph and demonstrate a clear understanding of the topic.</td>
<td>85-89% of the articles establish a clear purpose in the lead paragraph and demonstrate a clear understanding of the topic.</td>
<td>75-84% of the articles establish a clear purpose in the lead paragraph and demonstrate a clear understanding of the topic.</td>
<td>Less than 75% of the articles establish a clear purpose in the lead paragraph and demonstrate a clear understanding of the topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles - Supporting Details</td>
<td>The details in the articles are clear, effective, and vivid 80-100% of the time.</td>
<td>The details in the articles are clear and pertinent 90-100% of the time.</td>
<td>The details in the articles are clear and pertinent 75-89% of the time.</td>
<td>The details in more than 25% of the articles are neither clear nor pertinent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles - Interest</td>
<td>The articles contain facts, figures, and/or word choices that make the articles exceptionally interesting to readers.</td>
<td>The articles contain facts, figures, and/or word choices that make the articles interesting to readers.</td>
<td>The article contains some facts or figures but is marginally interesting to read.</td>
<td>The article does not contain facts or figures that might make it interesting to read.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphics</td>
<td>Graphics are in focus, are well-cropped and are clearly related to the articles they accompany.</td>
<td>Graphics are in focus and are clearly related to the articles they accompany.</td>
<td>80-100% of the graphics are clearly related to the articles they accompany.</td>
<td>More than 20% of the graphics are not clearly related to the articles OR no graphics were used.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teacher Name: _____________________________________________________
Student(s) Name(s): ______________________________________________

Web Site Design: Texas Cities Grow

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content Accuracy</td>
<td>All information provided by the student on the Web site is accurate and all the requirements of the assignment have been met.</td>
<td>Almost all the information provided by the student on the Web site is accurate and all requirements of the assignment have been met.</td>
<td>Almost all of the information provided by the student on the Web site is accurate and almost all of the requirements have been met.</td>
<td>There are several inaccuracies in the content provided by the students OR many of the requirements were not met.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>The author has made an exceptional attempt to make the content of this Web site interesting to the people for whom it is intended.</td>
<td>The author has tried to make the content of this Web site interesting to the people for whom it is intended.</td>
<td>The author has put lots of information in the Web site but there is little evidence that the person tried to present the information in an interesting way.</td>
<td>The author has provided only the minimum amount of information and has not transformed the information to make it more interesting to the audience (e.g., has only provided a list of links to the content of others).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphics</td>
<td>Graphics are related to the theme/purpose of the site, are thoughtfully cropped, are of high quality and enhance reader interest or understanding.</td>
<td>Graphics are related to the theme/purpose of the site, are of good quality and enhance reader interest or understanding.</td>
<td>Graphics are related to the theme/purpose of the site, and are of good quality.</td>
<td>Graphics seem randomly chosen, are of low quality, OR distract the reader.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning of Material</td>
<td>The student has an exceptional understanding of the material included in the site and where to find additional information. Can easily answer questions about the content and procedures used to make the web site.</td>
<td>The student has a good understanding of the material included in the site. Can easily answer questions about the content and procedures used to make the web site.</td>
<td>The student has a fair understanding of the material included in the site. Can easily answer most questions about the content and procedures used to make the web site.</td>
<td>Student did not appear to learn much from this project. Cannot answer most questions about the content and the procedures used to make the web site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Links (content)</td>
<td>All links point to high quality, up-to-date, credible sites.</td>
<td>Almost all links point to high quality, up-to-date, credible sites.</td>
<td>Most links point to high quality, up-to-date, credible sites.</td>
<td>Less than 3/4 of the links point to high quality, up-to-date, credible sites.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>