

Explorers of Texas Seventh Grade Lesson Plan

Objective: This Social Studies Skill Builder allows students to learn about the different explorers of Texas.

TEKS: 4.2(A); 4.2(B); 4.22; 4.23

Materials: Preview activity: the [map](#) *America Noviter Delineata*, 1613; Explorers PowerPoint; Graphically Organized Notes: Explorers of Texas Chart; placard handout.

Overview of Activity: This Social Studies Skill Builder allows students to learn about the different explorers of Texas. Working with a partner, students read about the different explorers on a PowerPoint and fill out a chart. When they are finished, students will analyze the explorers by deciding which explorer had the most impact on Texas.

Preview: Examine the [map](#) *America Noviter Delineata*, 1613. Allow students sufficient time to answer the questions based on the map handout. Once you have completed the preview, share with the students that explorers often had to use maps just like this one to explore North and South America.

Activities: Students will complete the Explorers of Texas Chart using information from the Explorers PowerPoint.

Processing:

Human Bar Graph: Post the name of each explorer in different areas around the room using the placard handout. Ask students the following question: Which explorer had the greatest impact on Texas? Students will stand in front of the explorer they believe was the most important. Have students stand in a straight line to create a Human Bar Graph. Ask students the following questions:

1. Who did most of the class stand in front of? Who had the least students standing in front of them?
2. Why do you think students stood where they did?

Once students have reviewed where they are standing, they will form a group of everyone standing in their line. They need to create a position statement for their explorer by filling in the blanks of the following sentence: We think _____ had the most impact on Texas because: reason 1 _____, reason 2 _____, and reason 3 _____.

After every group has reported out, ask the students if anyone would like to change where they are standing. If anyone changes position, ask why they changed. They will complete this assignment by writing a paragraph about who they think was the most important explorer and why.