

Instructional Vocabulary

Grade 7 Social Studies

Unit 1: Natural Texas and its People

- **Adobe** – mud mixed with a small amount of straw or grass and dried in the Sun
- **Agriculture** – the raising of plants and animals for food
- **Nomad** – a person who moves from place to place and has no permanent home
- **Region** – an area that is used to identify and organize areas of the Earth's surface for various purposes

Unit 2: Age of Contact

- **Conquistador** – a Spanish explorer who searched for wealth and land in the Americas
- **Expedition** – a journey undertaken by a group of people with a definite purpose
- **Exploration** – travel undertaken to discover what a place is like or where it is

Unit 3: Celebrate Freedom Week

- **Constitution** – a document that explains a form of government
- **Popular sovereignty** – a government in which the people rule; a system in which the residents vote to decide an issue
- **Individual rights** – a personal liberty and privilege guaranteed to U.S. citizens by the Bill of Rights

Unit 4: Spanish Colonial

- **Civil Settlements** – a village made up of people who were neither priests nor soldiers.
- **Colonization** – claim for and control by a distant nation.
- **Mission** – a settlement founded to spread Christianity to the people of the area.
- **Missionary** – one who is sent to do religious or charitable work in a territory or foreign country
- **Presidio** – a military post or fortified settlement in an area under Spanish control

Unit 5: Mexican National

- **Constitution** – a written statement outlining the basic laws or principles by which a country or organization is governed.
- **Empresario** – an agent who makes all arrangements to bring settlers to a colony.
- **Filibusters** – an adventurer who engages in a private rebellious activity in a foreign country.
- **Immigration** – people who come to a country to settle.
- **Representative government** – a representative government is one that allows its citizens to elect other citizens to make decisions for a large group of citizens. This allows the business of government to get done.
- **Tejano** – a person of Mexican descent living in Texas.

Unit 6: Revolution and Republic

- **Debt** – the amount of money a national government owes.
- **Delegate** – a person who represents others.
- **Grievance** – a complaint.

- **Revolution** – the overthrow of a government by those who are governed
- **Republic** – a nation or state in which people elect representatives to govern them.
- **Popular Sovereignty** – the source of governmental power lies with the people.
- **Limited Government** – everyone, including all authority figures, must obey the laws.
- **Separation of Powers** – the powers of government are separated between the executive, legislative and judicial branches.
- **Checks and Balances** – the branches of government share powers with the other branches thereby check each other's powers.

Unit 7: Early Statehood

- **Annexation** – the act of adding or joining a territory to an existing one.
- **Compromise** – an agreement in which each side in a conflict gives up some of what it wants.
- **Treaty** – an agreement between groups or countries.

Unit 8: Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction

- **Amendment** – a change made to a law, bill or document, in this case the U.S. Constitution.
- **Federalism** – power is distributed between a national government and the states
- **Freedmen** – a person who has been freed from slavery.
- **Martial Law** – rule by an army instead of the usual civil authorities.
- **Reconstruction** – the post-Civil War period from 1865 to 1877; the U.S. re-admitted the southern states to the Union and the federal government implemented policies affecting southern states.
- **Secede** – to withdraw, in this case, from the U.S.
- **Sectionalism** – excessive devotion to local interests and customs to a region of a nation.
- **Sharecropper** – a tenant farmer who receives a share of the value of the crop minus charges for rent and other expenses.

Unit 9: Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads

- **Commercial Agriculture** – producing crops for sale.
- **Expansion** – the act or process of expanding; the quality or state of being expanded; to extend
- **Immigrant** – a person who comes to a country to settle.
- **Sharecropper** – a tenant farmer who receives a share of the value of the crop, minus charges for rent and other expenses.
- **Subsistence Agriculture** – producing almost all the goods needed by the farm family, usually with a little extra for sale.

Unit 10: Age of Oil

- **Industrialization** – the making of products from natural resources.
- **Petroleum** – a thick, oily liquid found deep in the earth, used in a natural or refined state as fuel.
- **Prohibition** – a national movement to ban the manufacture, sale, transportation, or use of alcoholic beverages.
- **Progressivism** – social reform movement based on improving society through the power of the government.
- **Suffrage** – the right to vote.

Unit 11: Texas in the Great Depression and World War II

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Unit 12: Civil Rights and Conservatism

- **Activist** – a person who takes direct action to support a political cause
- **Civil Rights** – rights belonging to all citizens
- **Point of View** - an opinion, attitude, or judgment about an issue
- **Segregation** – to separate people according to their race

Unit 13: Contemporary Texas

- **None Identified**