

Instructional Vocabulary

Grade 4 Social Studies

Unit 1: Texas Geography: Regions and Skills

- **Economic activities** – industries created to meet the needs of people of a state, a region, or a country; they include agriculture, manufacturing, service, and technology
- **Geographic tools** – special tools geographers use to organize information on a map; they include grid system, legend, symbol, scale, and compass rose
- **Landforms** – features of the Earth’s surface; include plains, mountains, deserts, hills, and canyons
- **Population** – the number of people who live in a region
- **Region** – areas of the Earth’s surface that have similar physical or human characteristics distinctive from the characteristics of neighboring areas

Unit 2: American Indians Before European Exploration

- **Barter** – to trade goods or services without the exchange of money
- **Economic system** – the way people use resources to meet their needs and wants. Economic systems are organized sets of procedures used within communities or between communities to govern the production and distribution of goods and services. There are three types of economic systems: traditional (where customs, habits, laws, and religious beliefs control decisions), command (where government regulates economic activity), and market (where individuals control production and distribution resources and make decisions based on the market in which they function).
- **Nomadic** – people who move from place to place and have no permanent home
- **Political system** – the way people are governed
- **Sedentary** – people who settle in one particular area

Unit 3: Celebrate Freedom Week

- **Constitution** – the organization and structure of government; the system of beliefs and laws by which a country, state, or organization is governed
- **Freedom** – political independence; the power to do, move or act freely; a political right

Unit 4: Exploration and Mission Life

- **Exploration** –to travel for the purpose of discovery; the investigation of unknown regions
- **Colonization** –the process by which one nation establishes its presence in another region of the world;
- **Settlement** –the act or process of moving to a new area or place to live there : the act or process of settling an area or place
- **Mission** –a group of people who are sent to a foreign country to do religious work; a place or building where such work is done

Unit 5: Colonization

- **Agriculture** – the raising of plants and animals for food also known as farming.
- **Colonization** – the process by which one nation establishes its presence in another region of the world;

- **Empresario** –a person who had received land as a gift by the Mexican government and could sell it to others.
- **Tejano** –a Texan who has Mexican ancestors.

Unit 6: Revolution

- **Dictator** –a government leader who takes control by force and makes all important decisions.
- **Independence** –freedom from rule by another country.
- **Revolution** –a sudden, radical, or complete change that takes place in a relatively short amount of time; a fundamental change in the way of thinking about or visualizing something; includes fundamental change in political organizations such as the overthrow of one government with another, though not limited to political revolutions (i.e., the Industrial Revolution, the Enlightenment, the Technological Revolution)
- **Treaty** –an agreement between groups or countries.

Unit 7: Republic and Statehood

- **Annexation** – the process of adding something; to add (an area or region) to a country, state, etc.; to take control of (a territory or place)
- **Cession** – land given to another country; the act of giving up something (such as power, land, or rights) to another person, group, or country (verb: cede)
- **Manifest Destiny** – the belief that the United States was meant to stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.
- **Representative Government** – a government in which citizens elect people to speak or act for them.
- **Republic** – a form of government in which the people choose their leaders; a country that is governed by elected representatives and by an elected leader (such as a president) rather than by a king or queen. A constitutional republic is a representative form of government whose representatives derive their authority from the consent of the governed, serve for an established tenure, and are sworn to uphold the constitution.
- **Treaty** – an official agreement between groups or countries

Unit 8: Civil War and Reconstruction

- **Amendment** – change to the constitution
- **Civil War** – a war between opposing groups within a country
- **Confederacy** – the government of the Confederate States of America
- **Free Enterprise System** – a type of economy in which people own and run their own businesses
- **Juneteenth** – a Texas state holiday that commemorates the date slaves were freed in Texas, June 19, 1865
- **Reconstruction** – the period after the Civil War in which Southerners had to reorganize their state governments in order to rejoin the Union
- **Secede** – to leave
- **States' Rights** – the idea that state governments have the right to make certain decisions for themselves

Unit 9: Texas Frontier

- **Barbwire** – twisted wire with sharp points.
- **Cattle Drive** – cowhands drove or guided cattle across the open country to the railroad to be sold in markets in northern cities.

- **Immigration** – immigration is the process of people moving to a new place to stay permanently or at least for a long time.
- **Migration** – migration is the process of moving from one place to another place intending to stay permanently or at least for a long period of time.
- **Reservations** – an area of land set aside by the government for use by Native Americans.
- **Transportation** – the moving of people and goods from place to place.

Unit 10: Urbanization

- **Depression** – a time when there are few jobs and people have little money, when the economy is depressed. The Great Depression occurred in the 1930s in the United States was part of a world-wide economic depression.
- **Dust Bowl** – the region that was hit hardest by a severe drought during the 1930s
- **Non-renewable resource** – a resource that cannot be made again by nature or people
- **Petroleum** – a kind of oil that comes from below the ground and that is the source of gasoline and other products
- **Ration** – a limit on foods and other goods people buy
- **Urbanization** – growth of urban (city) areas due to economic changes

Unit 11: Texas Today

- **Aerospace** – the developing and manufacturing of commercial and military aircraft, missiles and spacecraft, and new technologies in commercial aviation, defense systems, and space exploration
- **NASA** – the National Aeronautics and Space Administration which was formed to explore space
- **Technology** – the use of knowledge or tools to make or do something

Unit 12: Texas Citizenship

- **Election** – an event in which people vote to choose government leaders
- **Pledge** - a promise of loyalty
- **Voting** – to express one's preference for a candidate or for a resolution

Unit 13: Texas Environment

- **Geographic region** – an area that is used to identify and organize areas of the Earth's surface for various purposes.
- **Adapt** – to change yourself to meet the climate or environmental needs
- **Modify** – to change something to meet your needs
- **Consequence** – something that happens as a result of a particular action or set of conditions