

**7th Grade ELA Ascend
PISD Curriculum: Year at a Glance**

Units	ELA Genre & Enduring Understandings	<i>Texas History</i> Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings	SS Connection and Dates to Remember
<p>A1: Roots of Texas The political, historical & geographical influences within early Texas and how Texas development/formation is represented in nonfiction. (bundles 1-3)</p> <p>Aug 27-Oct 23</p>	<p>Establishing Communication & Classroom Procedures</p> <p>Reading Genre Focus: Fluency Writing Genre Focus: Writing Process (Brainstorm personal experiences “Writers Notebook”) Big Idea/Enduring Understanding: Communication and life experiences are your connection to the world around you.</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are effective communication skills, and why is it important to use them? • Why is it important to consider the way information is presented? • How can readers figure out the meaning of unknown words as they are reading? 	<p>Setting the Stage Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiate between primary and secondary sources <p>Content Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is civic responsibility? What is the importance of civic responsibility and civic participation? • Why are free speech and press important in a democratic society? • What are the rights of Texas citizens? What are the rights of middle school students? As a student, how do I actively participate in ensuring that my school is safe, respectful and responsible? 	
<p>A1: Roots of Texas</p> <p>Aug 27-Oct 23</p>	<p>Literary Nonfiction</p> <p>Reading Genre Focus: Narrative, Biography, Nonfiction Writing Genre Focus: Personal Narrative Big Idea/Enduring Understanding: Writers choose words, devices, and other</p>	<p>Geography Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret maps and other graphic visuals • Analyze written and visual data <p>Content Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the regions of Texas and their major landforms? 	

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	<p>techniques to share their experiences with others.</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do writers decide what information to include when writing about a personal memory? • Which specific words/devices reveal the writer's personality to the reader? • How can the use (or misuse) of commas change the meaning of your writing? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the regions of Texas and their major landforms? • How have Texans adapted to and modified their environment? What are positive and negative consequences of the modifications? • Why did different groups come to Texas and where did they settle? • Why did the Spanish, Anglos, other Europeans, Mexicans Asians, and African American, etc. come to Texas and where did they settle? • How did immigrants influence Texas? • What is the structure of the population of Texas? • How does the changing population distribution and growth in Texas during the 20th and 21st centuries create an additional need for education, health care, and transportation? 	
<p>A1: Roots of Texas</p> <p>Aug 27-Oct 23</p>	<p>Literary Nonfiction</p> <p>Reading Genre Focus: Narrative, Biography, Nonfiction</p> <p>Writing Genre Focus: Personal Narrative Essay (Revising)</p> <p>Big Idea/Enduring Understanding: What we read and write affects how we make sense of our own and other's experiences.</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p>	<p>Native Americans of Texas</p> <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of change over time within thematic, political, and physical maps <p>Content Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the cultures of American Indians prior to European colonization the same and different? • In what different ways can you represent aspects of Native Texans' lives on different types of maps, charts, and graphs? • What was the geographic distribution of the major tribes of Texas? 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can you add to your writing to help keep your reader’s attention or make it more authentic (real)? • What can you learn about yourself and the world around you through reading and writing? • How does adding prepositional phrases influence the rest of a sentence? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are places and regions of Texas similar and different in terms of their physical and human characteristics? • How did physical and human geographic factors, such as climate, weather, landforms, irrigation, transportation and communication, affect major events in Texas? • How did geographic factors influence the tribes of Texas? 	
<p>A2: Influences of Texas The Spanish, Mexican and European cultures impact on Texas development. (bundles 4-6)</p> <p>Oct 24-Dec 20</p>	<p>Expository & Expressive Writing</p> <p>Reading Genre Focus: Expository Text</p> <p>Writing Genre Focus: Expository Essay</p> <p>Big Idea/Enduring Understanding: How we make sense of the world affects what we read and write.</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What impact does word choice have on the reading experience? • How can adding clauses and phrases to sentences make them more effective? • How is an expository 	<p>Explorations, Missions and Presidios Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a problem-solving process to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution <p>Content Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the major eras of Texas history? What characteristics define that era? • What and who were important individuals, events, and issues that shaped Texas? What were the positive and negative impacts of the Columbian Exchange between Europe, Africa, and the Americas? • What and who were important events, issues, and individuals related to 	

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	<p>essay different from a personal narrative?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What factual support do we need when expressing our opinions? 	<p>European colonization of Texas?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did physical and human geographic factors affect the Spanish colonization of Texas? • What are examples of Spanish influence on place names, vocabulary, celebrations, etc.? 	
<p>A2: Influences of Texas</p> <p>Oct 24-Dec 20</p>	<p>Literary Texts: Fiction & Nonfiction</p> <p>Reading Genre Focus: Fiction and Non-Fiction Writing Genre Focus: Multi-paragraph Essay (Expository Essay) Big Idea/Enduring Understanding: Successful writers use various characterizations to create well-rounded and interesting characters. Effective stories include well developed plot structure and characters.</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the traits and motivations that create interesting characters? • How does point of view affect the reader's insight into a character? • How do characters from different stories compare to one another? • How do you decide the 	<p>Mexican Independence, Empresarios, Immigration</p> <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the validity of a source based on language, corroboration with other sources, and information about the author • Use a decision-making process to identify a situation that requires a decision, gather information, identify options, predict consequences, and take action to implement a decision. <p>Content Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1519, mapping of the Texas coast and first mainland Spanish settlement; 1718, founding of San Antonio; 1821, independence from Spain; 1836, Texas independence; 1845, annexation; 1861, Civil War begins; 1876, adoption of current state constitution; and 1901, discovery of oil at Spindletop: What was the significance of these dates? • How did each of the following related to Mexico becoming an independent nation? What was the impact of Mexico's independence on Texas? Texas involvement in the fight for independence, José Gutiérrez de 	<p>Formal Lincoln-Douglas Debate with current ASCEND 6.</p>

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	<p>best way to organize your thoughts into an expository essay?</p>	<p>Lara, the Battle of Medina, the Mexican federal Constitution of 1824, the merger of Texas and Coahuila as a state, the State Colonization Law of 1825, and slavery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did each of the following contribute to the settlement of Texas? Moses Austin, Stephen F. Austin, Erasmo Seguín, Martín De León, and Green DeWitt, during the Mexican settlement of Texas • How were the Spanish/Mexican, and Anglo purposes of settlement in Texas similar and different? • How is the diversity of Texas reflected in a variety of cultural activities, celebrations and performances? 	
<p>A2: Influences of Texas</p> <p>Oct 24-Dec 20</p>	<p>Literary Texts: Fiction and Nonfiction</p> <p>Reading Genre Focus: Literary Texts: Fiction and Non-Fiction Writing Genre Focus: Polishing Writing</p> <p>Big Idea/Enduring Understanding: Effective literary devices impact the reader's appreciation.</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do your personal and cultural experiences affect your interpretation of literary works? 	<p>The Road to the Texas Revolution</p> <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze different types and dynamics of patterns, processes and trends: Chronological, Causal <p>Content Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did the following events develop into the Texas Revolution? Fredonian Rebellion, the Mier y Terán Report, the Law of April 6, 1830, the Turtle Bayou Resolutions, and the arrest of Stephen F. Austin • What was the significance of the roles played by the following individuals during the Texas Revolution? George Childress, Lorenzo de Zavala, James Fannin, Sam Houston, Antonio López de Santa Anna, Juan N. Seguín, and 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can literary elements affect my appreciation of a text? • How does the playwright indicate what the character should or might be doing? 	<p>William B. Travis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the changing population distribution and growth in Texas during the 20th and 21st centuries create an additional need for education, health care, and transportation? • What was the structure of the population of Texas going into the Texas Revolution? • What are different points of view of political parties and interest groups on important Texas issues in the past and present? • What modern stores, locations, and events show Texans maintaining their cultural heritage? • How did Texans from the US and Texans from Mexico begin to resolve their cultural and political differences? 	
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<p>A3: Texas Conflicts A multi-genre approach to Texas's involvement in the Texas Revolution, Statehood and the Civil War. (bundles 7-9)</p> <p>Jan 8-Mar 25</p>	<p>Information and Persuasive Text</p> <p>Reading Genre Focus: Informational and Persuasive</p> <p>Writing Genre Focus: Persuasive Essay (Letter format)</p> <p>Big Idea/Enduring Understanding: Writers use techniques to elicit an intended response from the reader.</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is it important to consider the way information is presented? • What is the relationship between organization and meaning? • How can context help me identify the meaning of an unknown word? • What techniques do writers and speakers use to persuade others? 	<p>The Texas Revolution</p> <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired through established research methodologies from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology • Use appropriate mathematical skills to interpret social studies information such as maps and graphs. <p>Content Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did Texans choose to defend the Alamo? • Why did Santa Anna order the execution of prisoners? • What effect did Travis' "Victory or Death" letter have in Texas and the U.S.? • What role did Tejanos like Lorenzo de Zavala and Juan Seguin play during the Revolution? • What was Houston's strategy? • What factors led to the Texan victory at San Jacinto? • Compare the goals of both Anglos and Tejanos during the Texas Revolution. • To what extent did the Revolution bring civil, political, and religious freedom to Texas? • Compare communication and weaponry technology during the Texas Revolution to today's. How was it different than current technology? 	
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		<p>How did its limitations affect the strategy, events and outcome of the Revolution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does geography help our understanding of the Texas Revolution? • How did geographic factors influence the strategies and events of the Texas Revolution? • How does the Texas Constitution reflect these principles? • Why were these principles important to the Texans who fought in the Revolution? • How are the principles and concepts of the Texas and U.S. Constitutions similar? • Why was the Texas Constitution so closely modeled on the U.S. Constitution? 	
<p>A3: Texas Conflicts Jan 8-Mar 25</p>	<p>Literary Text: Fiction Reading Genre Focus: Fiction, Poetry, and Drama Writing Genre Focus: Literary Response Big Idea/Enduring Understanding: Strong readers use textual evidence to support inferences and interpretations about a text. Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do your personal and cultural experiences affect your interpretation of literary works? 	<p>The Republic of Texas and Statehood Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support a point of view on a social studies issue or event • uses problem-solving and decision-making skills, working independently and with others, in a variety of settings • Present conclusions in clear, coherent, plausible and persuasive written or oral arguments <p>Content Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare the differing goals and policies of Houston and Lamar's presidential administrations. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do an author's use of style, tone and mood affect the reader's experience? • What are the elements of style? • What textual evidence supports my interpretation of a text? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the relationship between slavery and annexation? • How did the roles of Tejanos change during the Republic? • How did continuing conflict with Mexico and Texas Indians affect the Republic? • What were arguments in favor of and against annexation? • How did slavery impact annexation? • What was Anson Jones' annexation strategy? • Compare the terms of the Treaty of 1844 and the Joint Resolution of 1845. • What caused the U.S.-Mexican War? • What interest did the U.S. have in supporting the war? • What role did Texans play in the war? • How did the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Compromise of 1850 affect the borders of Texas? • How did Texas' population change during this period? • What was the impact of the preceding economic principles on the economy of Texas during this period? • Compare the leadership qualities of the 3 men who served as president of the Republic of Texas. • What is the structure and function of government at municipal, county, and state levels? • How do different levels of governments get the money they need in order to provide services? 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the structure, funding, and governance of Texas public education? • What are the rights of Texas citizens? 	
<p>A3: Texas Conflicts</p> <p>Jan 8-Mar 25</p>	<p>Exploring Ideas across Genres</p> <p>Reading Genre Focus: Emphasize Genres indicated by assessment data</p> <p>Writing Genre Focus: Multi-Paragraph Essay (Revisit expository essay and personal narrative as needed for STAAR)</p> <p>Big Idea/Enduring Understanding Writers share what they know from experiences in narrative and expository forms.</p> <p>Guiding Questions :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kinds of information are better suited for narrative vs. expository? • How does the form of the writing shape the effect it has on the reader? • How can a writer's use of conventions influence the effectiveness of the writing? 	<p>Civil War and Reconstruction Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a problem-solving process to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution • Create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information <p>Content Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the reasons for Texas' involvement in the Civil War? • What groups of Texans supported secession? Which groups opposed it? • How did the Civil War affect life on the home front? • How did the status of African Americans change after the war? • How did the war affect the roles of women? • Why did Texas' population increase after the Civil War? • What was the effect of the Constitution of 1876? • How did Texans contribute to the Confederate war effort? • Why was Galveston so important to the Confederacy? 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did immigrant groups come to Texas? Where did they settle? • How did immigration and migration to Texas affect our culture and economy? • How did European demand for cotton influence Texas and the Confederacy war effort? • What was the effect of the invention of the cotton gin on Texas? • How did ranching and farming techniques change during this period? 	
<p>A4: Texas Myths A multi-genre approach to the fantasized view of Texas (frontier life, cowboys, etc.) with connections to modern Texas. (bundles 10-12)</p> <p>Mar 26-Jun 3</p>	<p>Exploring Ideas across Genres</p> <p>Reading Genre Focus: Emphasize Genres indicated by assessment data</p> <p>Writing Genre Focus: imaginative story</p> <p>Big Idea/Enduring Understanding: Readers use different strategies when reading texts from various genres.</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does your understanding of the meaning of words affect communication? • How does a good reader use details to determine the main idea of a text? • How does a writer decide which details to include in 	<p>End of the Frontier Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze different types of dynamics of patterns, processes and trends: Casual • Describe relationships or connections among different data sources. <p>Content Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did the following people and events affect the Texas Frontier? • How did the development of the cattle industry affect Texas? • How did these people shape the history of Texas? • What was the political, economic, and social impact of the close of the frontier on the agricultural industry and the development of West Texas? • What were the effects of barbed wire and windmills on the agricultural industry? • What are the effects of scientific discoveries and technological 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

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	an imaginative story?	innovations on the use of resources?	
A4: Texas Myths Mar 26-Jun 3	<p>Myths and Epic Tales/ Begin Research Project</p> <p>Reading Genre Focus: Mythology Writing Genre Focus: Research (Expository) Big Idea/Enduring Understanding: Myths and tales teach important lessons and reflect the values of a culture.</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the characteristics of myths, epics, legends, folk tales and tall tales? • How do myths and legends reflect the values of a culture? • How do different stories represent similar themes? • What makes a topic worthy of research? • What makes a source legitimate? 	<p>Texas 1900-1945</p> <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze different types and dynamics of patterns, processes and trends: Spatial (geography), Social <p>Content Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the political, economic, and social impact of the oil industry on the industrialization of Texas? • How have reform movements shaped the history of Texas? • What was the political, economic, and social impact of the following major events? • What were economic factors that led to the urbanization of Texas? • How did the oil and gas industry develop in Texas? How did it contribute to the urbanization of Texas? • How have types of jobs and occupations changed as a result of the urbanization of Texas? 	STAAR Reading (grades 6-7)
A4: Texas Myths Mar 26-Jun 3	<p>Research Project</p> <p>Reading Genre Focus: Informational Text Writing Genre Focus:</p>	<p>Signature Recommended to focus on current events in Texas or that will impact Texas.</p>	Formal Lincoln-Douglas Debate with current ASCEND 8. <i>(schedule during first two weeks of May).</i>

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	<p>Multimedia presentation/Collaborative research essay w/ SS Big Idea/Enduring Understanding: Careful research leads to legitimate recording and reporting.</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does a writer decide which details to include in an expository text?• What details make a good summary?• What natural phenomenon do you want to know more about?		
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