**Social Studies**
**7th Grade Public Overview**

| Texas History |
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| **1st 9 Weeks** |
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| What are we learning?<br>How can I help at home? |
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| **Unit 1:** Setting the Stage – Places and Regions of Contemporary Texas<br>**Essential Questions:** Does the geography of a place help or hinder a society?<br>How does where you live impact how you live?<br><br>**Timeline:** 08/11-08/31<br>**Priority Standards:** 7.21A, 7.21B, 7.8A, 7.8B, 7.8C, 7.9A<br>**Link to TEKS:**<br><br>Content Unit Overview:<br>In this two-concept unit, students will study the geography, regions, and human impacts on the environment of Texas. The major focus of this unit is that students will gain understanding of present-day Texas as it relates to major places, regions, and locations of significance in order to build a foundation for later units of study.<br><br>At-Home Connection:<br>• Explore a Texas map: Find major cities and regions; talk about why people live there<br>• Track the weather: Compare your weather to another part of Texas<br>• Take a walk outside: Notice nature and how people have changed the environment<br>• Learn about regions: Share landforms, resources, cities, and jobs in different areas<br>• Talk about current issues: Discuss Texas events like droughts, hurricanes, or water use |
| **Unit 2: Setting the Stage-Early Texas Eras**<br>**Essential Questions:** Geography affects where and how people live.<br>Exploration is driven by need, curiosity, and unpredictable events.<br>Values and culture are spread by exploration and contact with other societies.<br><br>**Timeline:** 09/01-10/06<br>**Priority Standards:** 7.1A, 7.1B, 7.2A, 7.2B, 7.2C, 7.18C<br>**Link to TEKS:** |

Content: Unit Overview:
In this unit, students will learn about the native peoples of Texas, the motives/reasons for European Exploration, the results of Spanish and French exploration, and the methods and events during the colonization of Texas. This includes the impact on Native Texans, the growth of Catholicism, missions and presidios, the mapping of Texas, development of towns/ranches, and cultural influences. The students will also be able to identify the reasons for revolution and the desire for independence that led to the birth of a new nation called Mexico. With the knowledge gained from this unit, students will be able to better understand how the interactions between the cultures have had an impact on how people live today. They will begin to understand that history is a series of cause-and-effect relationships and recognize that people would not be who they are today without the hardships and achievements of those who came before.

At-Home Connection:

- Learn about Native Americans in Texas and how they lived
- Discuss why Europeans explored Texas and what they were looking for
- Understand Spanish and French exploration and its effects
- Study missions, presidios, and early towns and how they shaped Texas
- Explain why Mexico wanted independence and how it became a new nation
- Connect past to present by seeing how different cultures influence Texas today

**2nd Nine Weeks**

**Unit 3: Mexican National and Colonization**

**Essential Questions:** Can one person influence a nation?
Does the geography of a place help or hinder a society?

**Timeline:** 10/07-11/02
**Priority Standards:** 7.1A, 7.1B, 7.2D, 7.2E, 7.2F, 7.8C, 7.9A, 7.9B, 7.10B, 7.21B
**Link to TEKS:**

Content: Unit Overview
In this two-concept unit, students will study the era of Texas history that started on the eve of Mexican Revolution. The major focus of this unit is for students to build an understanding of how Texas went from being a Spanish colony to a major area ruled by Mexico. Students will learn about the major challenges within Mexican Texas related to settlement.

At-Home Connection:

- Make a timeline of Spanish Texas → Mexican independence → early settlements
- Look at a map and find where settlers came from and where they settled
- Talk about rules Mexico had for settlers and why rules matter
- Pretend to be settlers and discuss challenges they might face
- Compare cultures (Spanish, Mexican, Anglo) and how they still influence Texas today

**Unit 4: Texas Revolution**

**Essential Questions:** Can conflicts be avoided?
How does conflict affect people/us?

**Timeline:** 11/03-12/04
**Priority Standards:** 7.1A, 7.1B, 7.3B, 7.3C
**Link to TEKS:**

Content: Unit Overview:
In this two-concept unit, students will study the events, issues, and individuals related to the Texas Revolution. The major focus of this unit is that students gain an understanding of what issues led to the war for Texas Independence from Mexico as well as the major impacts of the conflict.

At-Home Connection:

- Talk about causes of the revolution: Discuss why Texans wanted independence from Mexico
- Create a mini timeline: List key events like the Battle of Gonzales, the Alamo, and San Jacinto
- Learn about important people: Research figures like Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, and Santa Anna
- Discuss effects of the war: Talk about what changed after Texas became independent
- Make real-life connections: Discuss how the Texas Revolution still influences Texas today

**2nd and 3rd Nine Weeks**

**Unit 5:** Republic of Texas, Early Statehood and Government
**Essential Questions:** What issues do leaders face?
Can one point in time change things forever?

**Timeline:** 12/07-02/04
**Priority Standards:** 7.1A, 7.1B, 7.4A, 7.4B, 7.4C, 7.8B, 7.8C, 7.13A, 7.13B, 7.14A, 7.14B, 7.15B, 7.16A, 7.17A
**Link to TEKS**

Content: Unit Overview
In this THREE-concept unit, students will study the period directly following the Texas Revolution when Texas attempted to self-govern as a Republic. The major focus of this unit is that students understand the challenges faced by the Republic of Texas, which ultimately contributed to the annexation of Texas as a state within the United States of America. Students will learn about the concept of Manifest Destiny and relate it to the annexation of Texas as well as the Mexican American War. Additionally, students will learn about the government systems that were established in Texas in this era and how they affect us today.

At-Home Connection:

- Talk about the Republic of Texas: Discuss what it means to be an independent country and the challenges Texas faced
- Create a timeline: Include events like independence, leadership changes, and annexation to the U.S.
- Discuss Manifest Destiny: Talk about why the U.S. wanted to expand and how Texas fit into that idea
- Learn about government: Compare the Republic of Texas government to the U.S. government today
- Connect to today: Discuss how decisions from this time still affect Texas and the United States

**3rd Nine Weeks**

**Unit 6:** Civil War and Reconstruction
**Essential Questions:** What are the causes and effects of conflict?
How is society impacted by governmental policies (or the lack of policies)?

**Timeline:** 02/05-03/17
**Priority Standards:** 7.1A, 7.1B, 7.4C, 7.5A, 7.5B, 7.5C, 7.8C, 7.16A, 7.18A, FB1
**Link to TEKS:**

Content: Unit Overview:
In this three-concept unit, students will study how Texas played a role in the Civil War and the impacts of the conflict on the state politically, economically, and socially. The major focus of this unit is that students gain an understanding of the causes for Texas' involvement in the war and how life on the home front was affected. Students will also study the period of Reconstruction directly following the Civil War and evaluate its impacts on Texas.

At-Home Connection:

- Discuss why Texas joined the Civil War: Talk about the causes and Texas' role
- Create a timeline: Include key events during the Civil War and Reconstruction
- Talk about life at home: Discuss how families in Texas were affected during the war
- Learn about changes after the war: Discuss political, economic, and social impacts
- Connect to today: Talk about how Reconstruction shaped Texas and its government

**4th Nine Weeks**

**Unit 7:** Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads
**Essential Questions:** How do people from one place influence people in another place?
What does the name of an era tell us about an era?
Can citizens bring about change?

**Timeline:** 03/18-04/06
**Priority Standards:** 7.1A, 7.6A, 7.6B, 7.6C, 7.6D, 7.7C, 7.10A, 7.10B, 7.19A, 7.19C, 7.19D, 7.21A, 7.21B
**Link to TEKS:**

Content: Unit Overview:
In this two-concept unit, students will study the major industries of Texas during the early years of statehood, including cotton farming, cattle ranching, and the railroad. The major focus of this unit is that students understand the geographic reasons for the development of these industries in Texas as well as the cultural, social, economic, and political impacts they had on the state during this period of growth.

At-Home Connection:

- Talk about Texas industries: Discuss cotton farming, cattle ranching, and railroads
- Look at a map: Explore where these industries developed and why

- Discuss geography: Talk about how land and climate helped these industries grow
- Learn about impact: Discuss how these industries affected jobs, culture, and the economy
- Connect to today: Talk about how these industries still influence Texas now

**Unit 8: 20th Century Texas**

**Essential Questions:** Can one point in time change things forever?
How do events from one time-period influence events in later time periods?
What are the characteristics of a great leader?

**Timeline:** 04/07 – 05/ 03
**Priority Standards:** 7.1A, 7.1B, 7.7A, 7.7B, 7.7C, 7.7D, 7.7E, 7.9B, 7.10D, 7.11A, 7.11B, 7.16A, 7.17A, 7.17B, 7.18D, 7.19A, 7.19B, 7.19C, 7.19D
**Link to TEKS:**

Content: Unit Overview:
In this three-concept unit, students will study the era of Texas history within the 20th Century. The major focus of this unit is that students gain an understanding of the causes and effects of economic, political, and social growth within Texas.

At-Home Connection:

- Discuss growth in Texas: Talk about how Texas changed in the 1900s
- Create a timeline: Include major events like wars, economic booms, and population growth
- Talk about causes and effects: Discuss what caused growth and what changed because of it
- Explore industries and cities: Look at how jobs and cities expanded over time
- Connect to today: Talk about how 20th-century changes still affect Texas now

**Unit 9:** Texas Today

**Essential Questions:** What makes the "free" enterprise system free?
How can a government ensure fairness and peace in a society?
Can you belong to more than one culture?

**Timeline:** 05/04-05/27
**Priority Standards:** 7.1A, 7.7E, 7.10D, 7.12B, 7.17A, 7.18B, 7.19C
**Link to TEKS:**

Content: Unit Overview:
In this three-concept unit, students will study contemporary Texas. The major focus of this unit is that students gain an understanding of the causes and effects of economic, political, and social growth within Texas and understand the impact of important contemporary Texans.

At-Home Connection:

- Discuss modern Texas: Talk about how Texas has changed in recent years
- Explore current issues: Discuss topics like population growth, jobs, and government
- Learn about important people: Research influential Texans today
- Talk about causes and effects: Discuss why changes are happening and their impact
- Connect to real life: Talk about how these changes affect your community and daily life