

SHOW ME TEXAS: CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

Purpose

- To locate sites/events in Texas that represent the diversity of human cultures in Texas.
- To describe human activities in relation to particular physical features, habitats, and environments across regions of Texas
- To use the technology of scanning QR codes to acquire information from visual and oral resources
- To select and evaluate appropriate digital resources for understanding human/environment interactions and communicating results

TEKS Standards

Grade 4 Social Studies

(19) Culture. The student understands the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups to Texas. The student is expected to (A) identify the similarities and differences among various racial, ethnic, and religious groups in Texas.

(21) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology. The student is expected to (A) differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as computer software; interviews; biographies; oral, print, and visual material; documents; and artifacts to acquire information about the United States and Texas; (B) analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions; (C) organize and interpret information in outlines, reports, databases, and visuals, including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps;

Grade 7 Social Studies

(9) Geography. The student understands the location and characteristics of places and regions of Texas. The student is expected to (B) compare places and regions of Texas in terms of physical and human characteristics.

(19) Culture. The student understands the concept of diversity within unity in Texas. The student is expected to (A) explain how the diversity of Texas is reflected in a variety of cultural activities, celebrations, and performances; (B) describe how people from various racial, ethnic, and religious groups attempt to maintain their cultural heritage while adapting to the larger Texas culture; (C) identify examples of Spanish influence and the influence of other cultures on Texas such as place names, vocabulary, religion, architecture, food, and the arts

Technology

(2) Through the study of technology applications, students make informed decisions by understanding current and emerging technologies, including technology systems, appropriate digital tools, and personal learning networks. As competent researchers and responsible digital citizens, students use creative and computational thinking to solve problems while developing career and college readiness skills.

(2) Communication and collaboration. The student collaborates and communicates both locally and globally to reinforce and promote learning. The student is expected to (A) participate in personal learning networks to collaborate with peers, experts, or others using digital tools such as blogs, wikis,

audio/video communication, or other emerging technologies;

(3) Research and information fluency. The student acquires, analyzes, and manages content from digital resources. The student is expected to (C) select and evaluate various types of digital resources for accuracy and validity; and (D) process data and communicate results.

Grade Levels: 3rd-7th

Class Time: 1 -2 class periods

Materials: Giant Traveling Map of Texas, cards with sites of cultural activities, card holders, smart phone (or other devices that can scan QR codes), a recording sheet (in what region is it located- see lesson 2 regions)

Instructional Background

Cultural geography focuses on the activities of people and their activities in particular places. People adapt to their environment and often make changes on the landscape. These cultural markers show us what is important to people, their cultural practices, values, beliefs, and visions. They remind people of the past and look toward the future. The sites listed below are home to activities that shape the lives of Texans. They show Texas history, economic growth, political life, applications of science and technology, artistic or physical skills, and the connection to the land and creatures that share the environment.

Colleagues across the state suggested places for us to add to our study with the Giant Traveling Map of Texas. We selected places that show a variety of activities and people across the many regions of our state. Items have QR codes linked to videos appropriate to students in 4th – 7th grades.

Some important sites were not selected for the lesson for several reasons. There may have been too many sites in one area or the site lacked appropriate video links. Sites that are well-known and always included in such activities were left off in order to broaden student knowledge of Texas.

If you wish to make more cards and more QR codes, see <http://www.qrstuff.com/>. All you need is the URL of a website. The site prompts you to put that into a window and it produces the QR code preview. Download or print.

Student Activity/Assessment

1. Pairs of students will select a card about a cultural site. They locate the place on the map and put the card on the map in a card holder
2. Next, scan the QR code on the back of the card. It will take the students to a website/video/still images that show the site and describe activities that take place there.
3. Learn about the site and the activity. Review the information with each other.
4. When pairs have information about one site, they will join with another team to share information and make comparisons.
5. Rotate the pairs so that each learns about at least three other sites.
6. The oral assessment may be followed with individual writing about the site, drawing a picture of the site, or including the site in a digital presentation developed by the class for a wider audience.

Extension

Choose three cards showing different aspects of Texas culture. Explore the questions below. Then, act as a guide on the map with students in another class. Show them some cultural sites in Texas and explain why they are located in that area.

- a. At that site how do people, animals, and the environment work together?
- b. What happens at that site between people and the environment?
- c. What if we mixed up the cards and imagined the structure/activity/event at a different site?
- d. In what ways would the human activity and the environment NOT fit as well? Could you even have the same structure/activity/event at a different site?

Another Extension Example: Compare the McDonald Observatory in Ft. Davis and State Capital in Austin.

- a) *What do people do there?* At the Observatory people study the stars. At the State Capital, people meet together to govern our state.
- b) *Why is it a good location for that activity?*
The Fort Davis Observatory is located in an area with low population. The isolated place has low amounts of artificial lights to interfere with the dark sky. People can study stars (astronomy) best when they can observe them without distractions. It is also located in the Davis Mountains State Park to give a better view without other objects in the way.
The State Capital is located in central Texas with highways and airports nearby. It is only a couple hours away from large urban centers of the state. It is easy to travel there to govern our state. It has many different kinds of jobs for people to support the work of governing Texas. People find jobs in government, business, education, health care, transportation, technology, and entertainment.
- c) *In what ways does the human activity affect the animals and physical environment?*
At the McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis, the mountains are home to many animals but not many people. The wildlife refuge protects the animals and the environment. People who go to the Observatory usually stay in the town where there are stores, hotels, restaurants, and businesses. There are not many roads with traffic to disturb the animals. People do not hunt the animals or disturb their habitats at the park, but they do get to observe the animals in their natural settings.

Around the State Capitol, the population continues to grow. We see construction of new buildings for businesses, new houses and apartments, improved highways, and more students at the university campus. Older buildings are renovated for new uses. People are always on the streets with cars, trucks, busses, and motorcycles. The landscape is for people. Most animals have moved out of the area to places where they find food and safety. That is, except the thousands of bats that live under the Congress Avenue Bridge. People watch them leave every summer evening on their nightly quest for insects. People protect the bat habitat and the bats can help control insects like mosquitos in the area of the Capitol. They are also very fun to watch.

- d) *In what ways would the human activity and the environment NOT fit as well? Could you even have the same structure/activity/event at a different site?* The McDonald Observatory is located in an area with low population. The isolated place has very low amounts of artificial lights to interfere with the darkness of the night sky. People can study stars (astronomy) best when they

can observe them without visual distractions. If the Observatory was in Austin, more people could go to the Observatory, but the lights of the city reflect into the sky. It is not dark enough to see stars very well. We could build an Observatory in Austin, but it would not fit the urban environment.

If the State Capitol were located in Ft. Davis, far from the large centers of population in Texas, many people would be too far away to conduct their daily business. If more highways and businesses were near Ft. Davis, the skies would no longer be dark enough to see the stars. The animal habitats would be disturbed. There would not be enough water for the people and animals. We could build a Capitol in Fort Davis, but it would not fit the rural environment.

Resources

Cultural Sites: Locations, Websites, QR codes

1. Institute of Texan Cultures – San Antonio - http://www.texancultures.com/festivals_events/texas_folklife_2016/



2. San Antonio National Historical Park Mission Trails – San Antonio - <http://visitsanantonio.com/english/Explore-San-Antonio/Only-in-San-Antonio/The-Alamo/The-San-Antonio-Missions> [1:12]



3. Johnson Space Center – Houston - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXP6TX_ej7w [1:24]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oMimN_aC90 [24:00]



4. Battleship Texas – Houston - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWusVzVd2il> [6:55]



5. Ft. Worth Stockyards – Ft. Worth - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SoNuNs2uKBE> [4:37]



6. State Capitol – Austin - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRQMPYcXVHM>



7. Congress Street Bats – Austin - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6GIUhK9hSs> [2:15]



8. Sixth Floor Museum and Texas School Book Depository – Dallas - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ooo2JL2j7M> [5:55]



9. Dallas World Aquarium – Dallas - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVor82jtjIE> [5:01]



10. Harbor Bridge and USS Lexington - Corpus Christi -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmNFjG7P6Ms> [3:47]



11. El Mercado in San Antonio – images -
<https://www.google.com/search?q=el+mercado+san+antonio+texas&biw=1081&bih=483&site=webhp&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0CEEQsARqFQoTCM6duuOnyscCFcscPgod8n8N3Q#imgrc=2DINFhDPojZm3M%3A>



12. Six Flags over Texas – Arlington – (compare with Fiesta Texas)
http://search.tb.ask.com/search/video.jhtml?searchfor=six+flags+over+texas+video&cb=BNH&pg=GGmain&p2=^BNH^xdm132^YYA^us&n=781acd49&qid=f27bbb93206a421b98d34e1c843795a2&ss=sub&pn=1&st=hp&ptb=6AE66787-248F-496E-9ED4-183C41118381&tpr=hpsb&si=CD15543_911-&vidOrd=3&vidId=Eyv7GrD-cbw [6.27]



13. Children’s Museum of Houston

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHpDmbzwmuo> [2:25]



14. Moody Gardens and Aquarium and Schlitterbahn Water Park – Galveston -

<http://www.galveston.com/officialcvbvideo/> [2:29 music “Galveston” tourism quick looks]



15. State Fair of Texas (Texas vs OU football Red River Rivalry)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcDBPukoPMk> [1:01]



16. Globe Life Texas Rangers Ballpark – Arlington - www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUSCrwJAY5A
[1:38]



17. McDonald Observatory – Ft. Davis - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kn1_9Xenk3A



18. Caprock Canyon State Park State Bison Herd
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzMy_FSsq3Q [3:04]



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSHwODH1QTs> [running with bison] [1:44]



19. National Ranching Heritage Center – Lubbock -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2HYdXxQnI8> [:51]



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-Q7I4X0C-E> [4:12]



20. Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum – Waco - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_r_pyCt7w [1:04]



21. Nacogdoches (oldest town) <http://video.klru.tv/video/2365005578/> [26:42]



22. San Jacinto Battleground Archeology -Houston (LaPorte)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9Z6ctRfO2M>



(Monument) <http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/san-jacinto-battleground>



23. Indigenous Cultures Institute – San Marcos
<http://www.indigenouscultures.org>



Cultural Sites

Printing images offers additional learning activities to preview the lessons and/or assess student knowledge

1. Institute of Texas Cultures – San Antonio



2. San Antonio National Historical Park Mission Trails – San Antonio



<http://www.nps.gov/imr/saan/images/92EF96C6-155D-451F-679A74AAEC0453FB.jpg>

3. Johnson Space Center – Houston



<http://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/thumbnails/image/iss045e013851.jpg>

4. Battle Ship Texas – Houston



http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/battleship-texas/gallery/bstx_2954.jpg

5. Fort Worth Stockyards – Fort Worth



<https://www.fortworthstockyards.org/files/advertisement/Stockyards%20Station%20ad.jpg>

6. State Capitol – Austin



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/df/TexasStateCapitol-2010-01.JPG>

7. Congress Street Bats – Austin



https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/hunter-education/online-course/images-conservation/Bats_TexasRiverSchool.png/@images/d9cdf5c6-d965-4338-867a-f703752c0c41.png

8. Sixth Floor Museum and Texas School Book Depository – Dallas



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/68/SchoolbookDepository.jpg>

9. Dallas World Aquarium – Dallas



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/58/Dallas_World_Aquarium_Entrance.JPG

10. Harbor Bridge and USS Lexington – Corpus Christi



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/dc/Corpus_Christi_Bridge.JPG

11. El Mercado – San Antonio



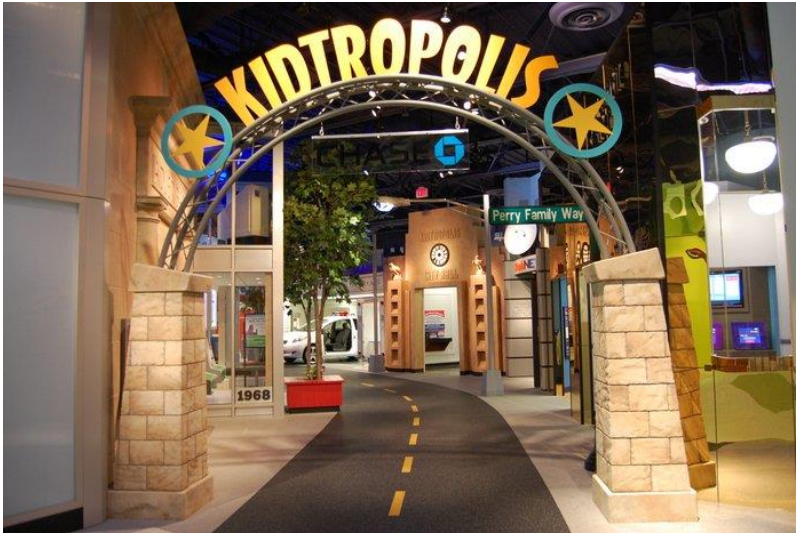
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c1/Market_Square_SA.JPG

12. Six Flags Over Texas – Arlington



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d0/Sfot_gotham_city.jpg

13. Children’s Museum of Houston –



Houston

14. Moody Gardens and Aquarium/Schlitterbahn Water Park – Galveston



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/38/MoodyGardens.jpg>

15. State Fair of Texas/ Texas vs Oklahoma football Red River Rivalry – Dallas



16. Globe Life Texas Rangers Ballpark – Arlington



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bd/Rangers Ballpark in Arlington.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bd/Rangers_Ballpark_in_Arlington.jpg)

17. McDonald Observatory – Fort Davis



http://news.utexas.edu/sites/news.utexas.edu/files/opa/wordpress/news/files/mcdonald-ChowDome_MilkyWay_2.jpg

18. Caprock Canyon State Park State Bison Herd – Quitaque



http://www.tpwmagazine.com/archive/2015/oct/images/PP-Caprock%20Canyons/Caprock-Bison_Release-MG_1168.jpg

19. National Ranching Heritage Center – Lubbock



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b9/Cattle_sculpture_outside_National_Ranching_Heritage_Center_IMG_0243.JPG

20. Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum – Waco



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fc/Texas Rangers Museum.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fc/Texas_Rangers_Museum.jpg)

21. Nacogdoches, Oldest Town in Texas – Nacogdoches



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ec/Nacogdoches, TX, City Hall IMG 0972.JPG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ec/Nacogdoches,_TX,_City_Hall_IMG_0972.JPG)

22. San Jacinto Monument & Battleground (Archeology) -Houston (LaPorte)



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/94/San_Jacinto_Monument.jpg

23. Indigenous Cultures Institute – San Marcos <http://www.indigenouscultures.org>



24. Create your own additional Cultural Site using www.grstuff.com
Can you find good videos for any of these? Consider if its importance is mainly as a cultural site or is its importance mainly as a physical site (like the Natural Bridge Caverns). Use the sites and videos in the lesson as a starting point for learning about the cultural sites of Texas.

Additional Resource: Join the Texas State Parks Geocache Challenge. See www.geocache.com