
Grade 4

In Grade 4, students examine the history of Texas from the early beginnings to the present within the context of influences of the Western Hemisphere. Historical content focuses on Texas history including the Texas Revolution, establishment of the Republic of Texas, and subsequent annexation to the United States. Students discuss important issues, events, and individuals of the 19th and 20th centuries. Students conduct a thorough study of regions in Texas and the Western Hemisphere that result from human activity and from physical features. A focus on the location, distribution, and patterns of economic activities and of settlement in Texas further enhances the concept of regions. Students describe how early Native Americans in Texas and the Western Hemisphere met their basic economic needs and identify economic motivations for European exploration and colonization and reasons for the establishment of Spanish missions. Students explain how Native Americans governed themselves and identify characteristics of Spanish and Mexican colonial governments in Texas. Students recite and explain the meaning of the Pledge to the Texas Flag. Students identify the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups to Texas and describe the impact of science and technology on life in the state. Students use critical-thinking skills to identify cause-and-effect relationships, compare and contrast, and make generalizations and predictions.

To support the teaching of the essential knowledge and skills, the use of a variety of rich primary and secondary source material such as biographies, novels, speeches and letters, and poetry, songs, and artworks is encouraged. Selections may include a children’s biography of Stephen F. Austin. Motivating resources are also available from museums, historical sites, presidential libraries, and local and state preservation societies.

Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca (ca. 1490 - ca. 1556) Cabeza de Vaca was an early Spanish explorer, considered the first geographer, historian, and ethnologist of Texas. He sailed with the 1527-28 expedition of Panfilo de Narvaez to the coast of Florida. Separated from the Spanish ships, Narvaez sought to leave Florida by sea. In 1528 Cabeza de Vaca and three others were grounded on an island off the Texas coast, likely San Luis, now known as Follets Island. After being enslaved by the Mariame Indians, and serving as a merchant and medicine man, Cabeza de Vaca and other survivors left the area of Galveston Island, searching for Spanish settlements, in 1534. They reached Culiancan on the Pacific Coast of Mexico in 1536. Cabeza de Vaca and his companions Andres Dorantes de Carranza and Alonso Castillo Maldonado wrote the earliest notes known to exist describing the Indians, landforms, flora, and fauna of Texas.

Martín DeLeón (1763-1833) The only Mexican empresario to found a colony in Texas, Martín De León was the son of well-connected Spanish emigrants to present-day Tamaulipas, Mexico. He worked as a merchant and eventually chose to settle in Texas. He petitioned the Mexican government in San Antonio for the right to establish a colony in 1807 but was denied. De León was one of the first trail drivers in Texas, sending his stock overland to New Orleans prior to 1809. The Mexican government finally approved his petition to form a colony in 1824 and he founded the town of Nuestra Señora Guadalupe de Jesús Victoria. He opposed Santa Anna but died in 1833 before the battles for Texas independence.

Henry Cisneros (1947-) Henry Cisneros was born in San Antonio, Texas, moved from the area in pursuit

of an education, but returned to begin his political career. He gained state and national attention for his efforts to solve urban problems. Cisneros earned degrees from Texas A&M University before moving to the northeast. He was a White House Fellow in 1971 and earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He returned to San Antonio in 1974 and became the youngest member to serve on the San Antonio city council when elected in 1975. In 1981 he began his first of four terms as mayor of San Antonio. He was committed to improving the economic base of the city by supporting tourism, high-technology, and light manufacturing. He was unsuccessful in his quest for the nomination as Democratic vice-president in 1984 but he did earn national recognition. President Bill Clinton appointed him Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in 1993. Cisneros spent four years focusing HUD efforts toward problems experienced by residents of big cities. In early 1997 he left politics to begin as president and C.E.O. of Univision Communications, Inc., the largest Spanish language television broadcaster in the United States.

Cleto Rodríguez (1923-1990) Raised in San Marcos and San Antonio, Texas, Cleto Rodríguez joined the army in early 1944 and served in the Philippine Islands in the South Pacific. He earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery in the battle for Manila. The Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces, recognizes gallantry and bravery in combat. Rodríguez became the fifth Mexican-American so honored and the first of Mexican descent to receive the award for action in the South Pacific. He joined 14 other Texans, six of whom were Mexican-American, in receiving the medal for their service on all fronts during World War II. He continued in military service to 1970.

Moses Austin (1761- 1821) Born in Connecticut, Moses Austin moved to the Missouri territory and established a lead mine and banks to supply and finance settlers in the west. He first proposed a settlement of 300 families in Texas to the Spanish governor of Texas in 1820. Austin died before his dream could be realized but his son, Stephen F. Austin, followed through on his father's plan.

Stephen F. Austin (1793-1836) Stephen F. Austin is considered the "Father of Texas" due to his continued efforts to settle the territory. His father Moses Austin contracted with the Spanish government to colonize a portion of northern Mexico. When Moses died in June 1821, the contract transferred to the younger Austin. Stephen selected a site for his colony along the Brazos and Colorado rivers and began recruiting families in 1821. Progress was slow because of difficulty in transporting supplies into the area and because of changing Mexican politics. Austin frequently discussed the future of his colony with Mexican officials and he earned their trust.

By 1825, 297 families lived in Austin's Colony. They were called the "Old Three Hundred." Austin continued to negotiate with the Mexican government and represent residents. He also secured other land grants. In ten years he helped more than 1,500 families settle in Texas. At first the leadership of Antonio López de Santa Anna pleased Austin, but as Santa Anna assumed more and more control, he limited the freedom of the Texans. Austin supported the organized opposition to the absolute power of Santa Anna. This opposition led to the Texas Revolution.

Miriam Amanda Wallace "Ma" Ferguson (1875-1961) Miriam Ferguson served two terms as governor of Texas. She was inaugurated in 1925, 15 days after Wyoming governor Nellie Tayloe Ross, making her the second female governor in the United States. She married James Edward "Jim" Ferguson in 1899. He was elected two terms as governor of Texas but was impeached in 1917 for financial corruption. The Impeachment Court removed him from office and declared him ineligible to hold any office of honor in Texas. He resigned the day before the Court announced its decision. In an effort to clear his name, and because he could not run under his own name, he ran his wife's campaign for governor in 1924. Miriam Amanda ("Ma") competed for and won the election in 1924 and again in 1932. A moderate Progressive, she sought to improve education and transportation systems. During her second and more successful term (1933-5) she supported New Deal legislation, a sales tax to benefit schools, and a corporate income tax.

Audie Leon Murphy (1924-1971) When Audie Murphy died in 1971, he was the most decorated combat soldier in U.S. history. He earned 33 awards, citations and decorations, including the Medal of Honor, for his service during World War II campaigns in Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany. After the war he became a successful movie actor starring in 39 films. He wrote 14 songs, two of which were in the top ten on the *Hit Parade*. He was also an author and poet. He was killed in an airplane crash in 1971.

John Tower (1925-1991) In 1961, Tower became the first Republican senator elected in Texas since 1870. This marked the return of two-party politics to the state. He was re-elected to the U.S. Senate in 1966, 1972, and 1978. During his 24 years as senator, Tower was involved in the Banking and Currency Committee (later named the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs) and the Armed Services Committee among others. His views influenced domestic and foreign policy. He worked to strengthen national defense, improve transportation systems, and support agriculture, industry and commerce, especially that related to Texas. Tower chaired a special review committee appointed by President Ronald Reagan in 1986 to report on the actions of the National Security Council during the Iran-Contra affair. The committee was known as the Tower Commission.

Grade 4

Tower was killed in a plane crash near New Brunswick, Georgia, on April 5, 1991.

Gail Borden, Jr. (1801-1874) An inventor, publisher, surveyor, and founder of the Borden Company, Gail Borden learned from experience that preserved foods were important to settlers. He was born in New York, but he and his family moved to Kentucky, Indiana, Mississippi, and finally into the Texas territory in 1829. A surveyor by training, he helped survey Stephen F. Austin's colony, prepared the first topographic map of Texas, designed Galveston, and served as an agent for settlement of that area from 1839 to 1851. In 1835 he published the first issue of his *Telegraph and Texas Register* and published it in various cities before selling it in 1837. He began inventing in the 1840s and moved to New York to be closer to trade centers. He secured patents for condensed milk in America and Britain in 1856, and he founded the New York Condensed Milk Company (later named Borden's) in 1857. Union troops used condensed milk during the Civil War, and sales assured his financial success. He returned to Texas in 1861, built a meat-packing plant in Borden, and supported educational and religious institutions benefiting children. He died in Borden, Texas, but is buried in New York.

Lorenzo de Zavala (1788-1836) Lorenzo De Zavala administered a land grant, established a colony in east Texas, and took an active role in Mexican government. He served in the Mexican congress and as a governor of the state of Mexico prior to 1835 when he became an active supporter of the quest for Texas independence. He participated in the Convention of 1836 and served as vice-president in the ad interim or temporary government established during the Revolution. He is credited with designing the first flag of the Republic of Texas.

Joseph Glidden (1813-1906) Joseph Glidden invented the first commercially successful barbed wire, patented in 1874. He was co-founder of the Barb Fence Company of De Kalb, Illinois, which marketed the wire. Farmers and settlers used it to protect water supplies, crops, and livestock from free-range cattle.

Pattillo Higgins (1863-1955) Known as the "prophet of Spindletop," Pattillo Higgins formed partnerships with other men who believed that there was oil in the Gulf Coast region of Texas. In 1892, Higgins, George Carroll, and George Washington O'Brien formed the Gladys City Oil, Gas, and Manufacturing Company, but after several unsuccessful wells, enthusiasm lullied. Anthony Francis Lucas eventually discovered oil on land adjacent to Spindletop on January 10, 1901, but Higgins's land on the crest of Spindletop proved even more productive. He was a self-taught geologist, draftsman, inventor, cartographer, and engineer.

Christopher Columbus (1451-1506) Born in Genoa, Italy, Christopher Columbus was a navigator and explorer who planned and led the voyage which landed in the West Indies in 1492. Columbus believed that, because the world was round and because long-distance navigation was technically possible, sailors should be able to head west to arrive in the East. Trade with the East was highly prized; spices and other commodities brought profit to merchants involved in overland trade. An ocean route could increase profit. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain partially funded the expedition at Columbus' request.

Earlier attempts made by Columbus to secure Portuguese funding for voyages to chart new routes to the Far East failed, but in 1492, with Spanish support, he set sail with three ships. When he touched land after a 37-day voyage, debarking on present-day San Salvador on October 12, 1492, he believed he had reached the East Indies. He led three more voyages to the New World searching for gold and other treasures prior to his death in 1506. He established the first permanent colony in Cuba during his second voyage in 1493, deposited more settlers near Venezuela in 1494, and completed his fourth voyage in 1503. Though Columbus never made the financial gains he envisioned, European nations realized the potential of the new continent as a source of riches and agricultural commodities and competed for colonization rights. The significance of Columbus' voyage is remembered every Columbus Day, a federal holiday on the second Monday of October.

Francisco Vásquez de Coronado (1510-1554) Francisco Coronado opened the southwestern portion of North America to Spanish colonization and settlement. Born in Spain into a prominent family, de Coronado first sailed to the New World in 1535, arriving in Mexico City. He was appointed as governor of the mining areas in northwestern Mexico in 1538. In attempts to discover the riches of the New World for Spain, he led an exploration in search of the Seven Cities of Cibola and Quivira and journeyed through territory in present-day Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Kansas in 1540-42.

Sam Houston (1793-1863) Sam Houston provided leadership for more than 25 years in Texas, commanding the army, and serving as president of the Republic, U.S. senator, and then governor. He was already a notable American when he came to Texas in 1832. Born in Virginia, he lived for several years in Tennessee learning from the Cherokee. He served in the army under the command of General Andrew Jackson. After his military service he was a representative to Congress and served as Tennessee's governor. Because of his knowledge of and appreciation for the Cherokee, he often represented the United States in attempts to settle disputes. Upon his arrival in Texas, Houston's experience with federal and state government proved valuable as delegates to the Texas Convention of 1836 worked to draft a constitution and declare independence from Mexico. Houston left

the Convention early to command the Texas army against Santa Anna's advancing Mexican troops.

Texans proclaimed Houston the hero of the Battle of San Jacinto during which Santa Anna was captured and his Mexican army routed. The Treaties of Velasco resulted. Afterward, Houston became the first elected president of the Republic of Texas in 1836 and was reelected in 1841. Houston struggled to solve the problem of a growing national debt. Eventually the Republic sought support from the United States, and Houston supported annexation of Texas by the United States. Others wanted Texas to remain a republic. Texas became the twenty-eighth state in late 1845. Sam Houston served as a U.S. senator from Texas and then was elected governor in 1859. He opposed secession from the Union and left the governor's office after Texans voted overwhelmingly to secede in January 1861.

Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar (1798-1859) In 1836, Mirabeau Lamar was elected the first vice president of the Republic of Texas and was elected president the following term, serving 1838-1841. In contrast to Sam Houston, Lamar favored remaining a republic and opposed annexation to the United States. Under his administration the public debt of Texas grew. Lamar believed that the Texas border included Santa Fe, New Mexico. This gave the Republic access to trade with the far west through New Mexico, thereby securing extra income. Mexican officials disagreed and this continued the hard feelings between Mexico and Texas. Lamar relocated the Texas capital from Houston to the growing town of Austin to be closer to the interior development of the state. Lamar also stressed the need for public education in Texas.

Barbara Jordan (1934-1996) Born in Houston, Barbara Jordan was the first African-American congresswoman from the south. She was supported by President Lyndon Johnson during her campaign as a representative from Texas to the U.S. House. She earned national recognition during the Watergate hearings in 1974 which investigated President Richard Nixon's election campaign. In 1975 she was named *Time* magazine's Woman of the Year. She was a professor of public service in the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin and remained in public service until her death on January 17, 1996.

Anson Jones (1798-1858) The last president of the Republic of Texas, Anson Jones was elected in 1844. He retired to his farm near Washington-on-the-Brazos following the annexation of Texas by the United States. Jones was a doctor from Brazoria who supported Sam Houston and Houston's efforts to stabilize the Texas economy and keep peace with the Native Americans.

René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle (1643-1687) Born in Normandy, Cavelier preferred his noble

title, Sieur de la Salle. He immigrated to New France and secured a seigniorship (a large estate) along the St. Lawrence River. He sold it to invest in the Canadian fur trade in an attempt to make his fortune. Sailing for France, he descended the Mississippi River to its delta in 1682, established a trading monopoly in the Mississippi Valley, and secured Louisiana for France. Returning from France in 1684, La Salle led an expedition seeking the mouth of the Mississippi. The explorers sailed past the delta and landed in Matagorda Bay (Texas) instead. They established Fort St. Louis in 1685 and claimed the area for the French. Thus, the French flag is one of the six flags which has flown over Texas. Discord among the members of the expedition led to La Salle's assassination on March 19, 1687. Most of those remaining eventually traveled north on the Mississippi River to return to Canada.