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# 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 Historical content focuses on Texas history including the Texas Revolution, establishment of the Republic of Texas, and subsequent annexation to the United States.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.

**Adapted to and Modified** When people settle new areas they often change their way of doing things in response to new geographic factors or they modify the landscape to suit their needs. As the number of people moving to Texas increased, the settlements spread west. The immigrants built homes of material readily available, including logs or sun-baked mud, thus adapting their lifestyles to match their environment. On the plains where there were no trees, lumber for frame houses arrived in wagons or in railroad cars. Transporting materials took time and money so people built adobe houses instead.

Modifying the environment requires resources such as knowledge, technology, and money. Irrigation allows farmers in west Texas to make the dry climate more productive. Modifications may carry consequences. Overusing irrigation may deplete the underground water table.

**Annexation** Annexation is the process of adding some-

thing. Representatives of the Republic of Texas recognized several advantages the young nation could gain if it gave up its status as an independent nation and agreed to annexation by the United States. The U.S. Congress passed a resolution to allow annexation on February 28, 1845, with several conditions including the need for Texans to hold a convention and an election to approve annexation and to write and adopt a new state constitution. Having satisfied the requirements, Texas was admitted as the twenty-eighth state on December 29, 1845.

**Artifacts** Artifacts include anything made by humans such as a chair or natural objects such as an arrowhead modified by humans. An artifact can provide students with clues about the nature of a culture.

**Civic Affairs** Citizens involved in activities of their communities and nation are involved in civic affairs. This is their public, or civic, life. Citizens also devote time

to their personal lives to achieve private goals.

**Climate** Climate is the weather at a particular place over a period of years. Those who study climate consider the averages and extremes of temperature, wind velocity, precipitation, and other weather elements. Factors which influence the climate of a place include distance from the equator (latitude), proximity to large bodies of water and the nature of the body of water (cold ocean currents versus warm ocean currents), location on a continent (continentality), and elevation.

**Colonization** Colonization is the process by which one nation establishes its presence in another region of the world. Sometimes this involves a large scale resettlement of people. Colonization requires significant numbers of people to make it effective, and the colonists do not just move their homes, they move their culture and their government to the new land, too. In this way they change the culture and government of the native people. In the case of the 13 British colonies in America, the colonists eventually created a new form of government and a culture unique to the United States.

**Compass Rose** A compass rose is a circle or similar design which includes graduated degrees or quarter points (intermediate directions), printed on a chart or map for reference. The compass rose shows true directions. A compass rose shows the orientation of a map on Earth. Students should use a compass rose or the north arrow to designate directions when drawing their own maps.

**Culture Group(s)** People who share characteristics of ethnicity, religion, education, and interests or social standing also often share a body of customs, beliefs, social forms, and material traits. People who share these characteristics are members of culture groups. For instance, when immigrants move to a new country like the United States, they remember their traditions and may sing the same songs, eat the same foods, and practice the same family customs as they did in their homeland.

**Customs** Customs are ways of doing things within a group or society which become habit and are adopted as tradition.

**Democratic Process** Democratic process is based on the principles of democracy: the majority rules with consideration of minority viewpoints, and equal opportunity for participants exists. People who vote, who run for any office, or who write letters to the editor about public issues participate in the democratic process.

**Division of Labor** Dividing work so that each

worker does only part of a larger job is called division of labor. Factory workers are trained in only one area of the assembly line process. They depend on workers in other areas to do other jobs. This contributes to efficiency in mass production situations but does not result in a highly skilled job force. To change production is challenging where a division of labor is in place.

**Empresario** An empresario was a land agent or land contractor. The Mexican government made use of empresarios to settle Texas by granting land to both Mexican and American empresarios who were committed to attracting colonists. Notable empresarios included Stephen F. Austin and Martín De León.

**Ethnic Groups** Members of ethnic groups share racial, linguistic, and cultural connections resulting from their common heritage. Poles, Irish, and Germans are distinct ethnic groups.

**Exploration** Exploration involves searching for new things, often in places where no one else has looked or in ways which no one else has tried. In the past Europeans came to North and South America to explore new environments or to seek new routes of travel. Most came with specific orders to find a desired commodity such as gold, furs, or fertile land for settlement. Today, astronauts explore new territory and inventors try new ways of doing things.

**Frames of Reference** Those who write about events they experience approach the events from a variety of vantage points (frames of reference). The settlers in San Antonio thought about their lives in the small village differently than did the troops inside the Alamo. The experience of the troops inside the Alamo was different from that of Santa Anna and soldiers in the Mexican army. Once the siege of the Alamo started, the observations and experiences of the settlers, defenders of the Alamo, and Mexican soldiers differed greatly. Thus the evidence they left behind in the forms of letters, diaries, and memories they shared with family and friends varied greatly. By understanding how the frame of reference of participants affected the evidence they created students gain a greater understanding of what happened and how it relates to current events.

Historians also have a frame of reference, one based in the present. Their job is to sort through the evidence, prioritizing it, distinguishing important information from the less important, and interpreting it. Historians reflect their times, and as a result, the interpretations of events change over time. Throughout the process, historians must be aware that they view the events from the present, but they must avoid “present-mindedness,” judging the past in relation to accepted behavior today.

**Free Enterprise System** A free enterprise economy or system is the same as a market economy. In a market economy, individuals depend on supply, demand, and prices to determine the answers to the four economic questions of “what to produce,” “how to produce,” “how much to produce,” and “for whom to produce.” The system has four characteristics: economic freedom, voluntary exchange, private property and the profit motive.

**Geographic Factors** Several factors influence the settlement and development of a place. Geographic factors include the physical characteristics of a place such as landforms, bodies and sources of water, vegetation, climate and weather patterns, and animal life. Farmers prefer fertile land, abundant rainfall, and a moderate climate. Those who earn their living from fishing settle near bodies of water. Settlers often avoid mountainous areas or swamp land for various reasons. Several geographic factors affected Texas settlement and population distribution.

**Grid System** A grid system is a network of horizontal and vertical lines used to locate points on a map or a chart by means of coordinates. The grid system often used on state highway maps consists of columns and rows labeled with letters and numbers. A place identified as G25 in the index is found at the intersection of “column” G and “row” 25 (or vice versa). Latitude and longitude also form divisions in a grid system.

**Immigration** Immigration is the process of people moving to a new place to stay permanently or at least for a long time. Those leaving one region or country to settle in another are emigrants. Those arriving in the new region or country are immigrants.

**Juneteenth** On June 19, 1865, the first U.S. troops sent to occupy Texas after the Civil War landed in Galveston. General Gordon Granger read the Emancipation Proclamation, thus freeing the 250,000 slaves in Texas. Even though President Abraham Lincoln had issued the proclamation in 1863, it had no effect in Texas until the federal troops arrived. The first celebrations in 1866 were political rallies and opportunities to teach blacks about their voting rights, but the festival evolved as a day of cultural celebration. Juneteenth is an official state holiday, authorized in 1979 and signed by Governor William P. Clements, Jr. The first state-sponsored Juneteenth celebration occurred in 1980.

**Landforms** Landforms are features on Earth’s surface which include plains, mountains, sand dunes, hills, and canyons. The shape of landforms (tall and jagged, flat with steep sides, etc.), the nature of the landforms (easy to live on, difficult to live on, etc.), and the processes that continue to affect the landforms (erosion and deposition) are important factors to consider in studying the influence of

these physical characteristics on humans.

**Landmarks** A landmark is a readily identified structure or physical feature. It may be a symbol of an event or achievement in history. A statue honoring war veterans and the county court house are local or community landmarks. The Alamo and the San Jacinto Monument are landmarks of the Texas Revolution. The Arch in St. Louis is a landmark which distinguishes that city as the gateway to the west and westward expansion. The White House and the Washington Monument in Washington D.C. are national landmarks.

**Legend** An explanatory list of the symbols appearing on a chart or map is a legend. Sometimes this is called a key because it is key to understanding what a map is saying.

**Limited Resources** When there is a fixed supply of a resource, the resource is limited. The supply of any non-renewable natural resource such as oil is limited. Other natural resources such as cotton or peanuts may be limited during one growing season but renewable over a period of years. This affects price and availability. Human resources are also often limited because the number of people possessing a certain skill may be limited, or funds to pay laborers may be limited.

**Mass Production** Making many of the same thing is termed mass production. Usually mass production depends on technology, standardized parts, an assembly line process, a labor force, factories to house machinery and workers, a transportation network to get the supply from the factory to the consumers, a marketing campaign to convince people to buy the supply, and a price that meets the demand of customers. Henry Ford made mass production possible through the use of the assembly line to build the Model T. In 1909 his car cost \$950 but by 1916 it cost only \$360.

Mass production of one product may encourage growth of other industries. In order to finish a car, the Ford Motor Company used steel, rubber, glass, and upholstery. Increasing numbers of cars on the road affected urban and suburban development, the need for gas stations and motels and the care and surfacing of roads. Mass production can cause an economy to grow. At the same time, mass production can lead to a decline in the number of things made by hand by artists and craftspeople. It might increase pollution and can reduce variation in society.

**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. Pull factors draw migrants from their original location. These include social, economic, and environmental attractions. Push factors are the social, economic, and environmental forces which drive people from their original location and cause them to seek a

new one.

**Patriotic Symbols** A patriotic symbol is something which stands for or suggests a love for and defense of country and state. Patriotic symbols are visible signs of the intangible feelings of national and state pride. For instance, Uncle Sam, the U.S. and Texas flags, the Statue of Liberty, and the Alamo are patriotic symbols.

**Patterns of Settlement** Certain physical features encourage settlement and others discourage it. Humans seek land in fertile river valleys while they tend to avoid inhospitable areas such as deserts or mountains. As more people settle, they either cluster at a crossroads or harbor, or they disperse along roadways or rivers. The spatial distribution and arrangement of human habitations result in patterns of settlement. These patterns exist whether a student observes settlement on a local scale, a national scale, or an international scale. To understand patterns of settlement people might ask: Where have people settled? Why have they chosen those particular sites? Have settlement patterns changed over time?

**Pledge to the Texas Flag** In 1965, Governor John Connally approved the Pledge to the Texas Flag.

“Honor the Texas flag. I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one and indivisible.”

**Points of View** Social scientists strive to understand what happened in the past or what motivates people today but they are often limited by incomplete evidence and conflicting viewpoints. To analyze available evidence they identify the different interests, opinions, and attitudes reflected in the evidence (points of view). Thus they gain a greater understanding of the values, beliefs, political and national allegiances, economic and class status, and goals of the witnesses to the event. Witnesses consider different things important and these are reflected in their descriptions of and reflections on contemporary events. Reading and using evidence requires skill to recognize and understand the range of information contained.

**Primary Sources** Primary sources are evidence produced by someone who participated in an event or lived during the time being studied. Letters written to a friend or maps to a friend’s house are both primary sources.

**Republic of Texas** When the delegates to the Convention of 1836 adopted the Texas Constitution they created a new republic. A republic is a type of democracy in which the power is held by representatives elected to carry out the wishes of the majority of the citizens. Texas functioned as an independent republic until December 29, 1845, when Texas became the twenty-eighth state.

**Scale** A scale indicates the relationship between the distances on a map, chart, or plan and the corresponding actual distances. Examples include “1 inch equals 1 mile” or “1:25,” or a line marked at intervals equal to 1 mile, 5 miles, etc. Scale can also mean the size of an area being studied. For example, a small-scale study can look at conditions in one place whereas a large-scale study looks at conditions in an entire nation. Relationships observed at one scale may not be true at another scale.

**Scientific Discoveries** Scientific discoveries result from systematic experiments which can be duplicated. Sometimes the discoveries are accidental or coincidental, and sometimes the best use of a discovery is not immediately apparent, but the nature of the experiments ensure that the data exists to document the expected and unexpected. As technology and knowledge increase, the possibility of scientific discovery increases. Scientists did not always have access to well-equipped laboratories to conduct experiments. They relied on experience. Gail Borden, Jr. knew the benefits of a healthy diet and recognized the importance of milk as a part of it. However, milk spoiled easily, and migrants had difficulty securing it on their travels. He developed the process to condense milk and patented the product in 1857.

**Secondary Sources** Secondary sources are descriptions or interpretations prepared by people who were not involved in the events described. Researchers often use primary sources to understand past events, but they produce secondary sources. Secondary sources provide useful ground material and context for information gained from primary sources.

**Settlement** Settlement is the act or process of establishing a permanent home in a new region. Settlers often move to the new area to take advantage of resources such as available land or fertile soil. After the Revolutionary War the U.S. government encouraged settlement by giving land to veterans of the war. Mexico encouraged settlement and development of large parts of Texas by offering land grants. In both instances, the settlement forced Native Americans off the land.

**Specialization** Specialization concentrates research, design, and production on a particular good or service. Mass production depends on specialized parts made by machines created to produce just one size or type of good. In an industrial setting workers often learn specialized skills suited to one task or series of related tasks in the assembly process. Specialization also applies to non-industrial patterns of work. Students learn to be teachers, investment bankers, curators, journalists, or engineers. As people become more experienced, they often become more specialized. The oil industry in Texas requires the specialized services provided by geologists, petroleum engineers, and lawyers and

specialized industries such as refining. It is often more practical to focus research, design, and production on one good or service, especially when natural resources, population distribution, or economic patterns encourage it. For instance, doctors specializing in heart or cancer treatments establish practices in urban areas while those trained to work in oil fields labor where the oil resources exist.

**Symbol(s)** A symbol is something which stands for or suggests something else. It can be a visible sign of something which is intangible. The Statue of Liberty is a symbol of freedom.

**Technological Innovations** Technological innovations are new ways of doing things which are based in a technology. The telephone revolutionized the way people communicated because it allowed people to hear the voices of friends and family living miles away. Travel became easier due to improvements in transportation which began with systems of canals and railroads and expanded to include automobiles, interstate roadway systems, and airlines with international flights. Computers and software revolutionized the ways people process information and communicate. Computers connected to the Internet allow people to share information and conduct personal and professional business nearly instantaneously and relatively inexpensively. The demands of new technologies and their applications promote further innovation to meet changing needs.

### **Texas Constitution (for the new Republic, 1836)**

The Convention of 1836 approved the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836, and then members spent two weeks drafting a constitution to guide the government of the new republic. The members used the U.S. Constitution as a model. The government of the newly created Republic consisted of three branches: an executive branch which carried out the laws (including a governor as executive), a legislative branch which made the laws (the state congress), and a judicial branch which interpreted the law and ruled on offenses (the Texas courts). It included a Bill of Rights, similar to the U.S. Bill of Rights, which listed the basic rights protected by the constitution. Delegates created a temporary government since Texas was at war with Mexico when the constitution was adopted. After the Battle of San Jacinto, a permanent government was formed. A new state constitution was written and adopted as a condition of annexation to the United States on February 28, 1845. Other state constitutional conventions occurred in 1866 and 1868-1869. The current Texas Constitution was written and adopted by the convention in 1875 and approved by the electorate in 1876.

**Texas Declaration of Independence** Following the model of the U.S. Declaration of Independence, delegates to the Convention of 1836 drafted the Texas Declaration of Independence and approved it unanimously on

March 2. Texans declared their independence from Mexico for several reasons. Mexico denied Texans freedom of religion, the right to trial by jury, a public school system, and the right to petition the government. Residents believed the Mexican government denied them their rights. The Texas Revolution sought to correct these wrongs.

**Texas Independence Day** On March 2, 1836, Texas declared independence from Mexico and established an interim government for the Republic of Texas. Following the victory at San Jacinto in April, a permanent government was formed.

**Texas Revolution** A political revolution is an attempt to overthrow a government. Residents of Texas joined forces to challenge the rule of Mexican dictator Antonio López de Santa Anna and Mexican military authority in 1835. This followed years of efforts led by Stephen F. Austin to maintain good relations. Following a two-year imprisonment, Austin began to believe that independence held the answer. He and others, including Sam Houston, saw the benefits of association with Mexico but were frustrated at the limits Mexico imposed. The Battle of Gonzales on October 2, 1835, was the first battle in the Texas Revolution. The siege of the Alamo and the massacre of Texans at Goliad inspired Texas troops to fight the larger, better equipped Mexican army. At the Battle of San Jacinto, Texans defeated the Mexican forces and captured General Santa Anna. In the Treaty of Velasco Santa Anna agreed to stop fighting the Texans and to support the independence of Texas.

**Texas, Our Texas** The Texas legislature adopted “Texas, Our Texas” as the state song in 1929. “Texas, our Texas! All hail the mighty State! Texas, our Texas! So wonderful, so great! Boldest and grandest. Withstanding ev’ry test; O Empire wide and glorious, you stand supremely blest. God bless you, Texas! And keep you brave and strong, That you may grow in pow’r and worth thru-out the ages long.”

**Three Branches of State Government** Today the government of Texas, which is modeled on the U.S. government, consists of three branches: the legislative branch which makes state laws, decides how the state will spend tax money, and approves governor appointees; the executive branch which carries out and enforces laws made by the state legislature including laws related to education, health care, and fish and game; and the judicial branch which interprets the law and manages conflicts about the law.

**Treaty of Velasco** Velasco, a port located at the mouth of the Brazos River, was one of the first three towns in Texas in 1821. Santa Anna was captured during the Battle of San Jacinto, April 21, 1836, and forced to sign the Treaty of Velasco. Under the terms of the treaty, he agreed to stop fighting the Texans, recognized the independence of Texas,

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and agreed to withdraw all Mexican troops from Texas. The treaty was never ratified in Mexico.

**Vegetation Regions** Earth is covered with a variety of different associations of vegetation. The kind of vegetation that grows in a region varies with soil, temperature, and precipitation. Although there are numerous subcategories within these big categories, four types of vegetation regions can be identified in Texas and the United States: forest, savanna, grassland, and desert. The single most important factor affecting the distribution of these vegetation types is precipitation.

**Western Hemisphere** Geographers divide the earth (a sphere) in half (a hemisphere) using either the equator or the prime meridian as the division. When using the equator, everything north of the equator is the Northern Hemisphere and everything south is the Southern Hemisphere. When using the prime meridian, located at 0° longitude, everything east of the prime meridian is the Eastern Hemisphere and everything west of the prime meridian is the Western Hemisphere. North and South America are in the Western Hemisphere. North America is in the Northern Hemisphere and most of South America is in the Southern Hemisphere.