

LESSON 21

Recreation in Texas

- *Texas State Parks*
- *National Parks, Historical Sites, Recreation Areas in Texas*
- *Birding in Texas*
- *Freshwater and Saltwater Fish and Fishing*
- *Hunting and Fishing Licenses*
- *Fairs, Festivals and Special Events*

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 6, 21, 22, 23

7 - 8, 21, 22, 23

8 - 10, 11, 29, 30

STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 2, 3

8 - Social Studies - 2

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. a. In small groups, students will plan a trip to a state park. Using information in the Texas Almanac, students will choose a destination. Each group will go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/ for information on their chosen state park. Additional information can be obtained through the Texas Department of Transportation.
b. Use the “Counties of Texas” section, or a Texas road map, for each group to plot the route from their school to their chosen park. The mileage will be calculated using the map scale. Students will determine the cost of transportation to the park (miles X cost of gasoline per mile). An overall trip budget will also be compiled.
c. Students will make a collage that illustrates the location of their chosen park, facilities available, and other important characteristics of the park.

Horseback riders in Jones State Forest in Montgomery County. Texas Forest Service photo.



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- d. Each group will present information to the class on why their park should be listed in the top three parks in Texas to the entire class. The class will then vote on the top three.
2. Students will construct a Miniature Book (Appendix) about a state park of their choice, using the sections “Texas State Parks” and “National Parks, Historical Sites, Recreation Areas.” The book should include an illustrated cover, a map with directions to the park, historical information if applicable, wildlife, vegetation, recreational activities, a picture page, and a day’s itinerary. Additional information can be located at <http://www.texas tourism.com> or <http://www.traveltex.com>.
3. Using “Texas State Parks,” “National Parks, Historical Sites, Recreation Areas,” and a “Texas Outline Map” (Appendix), students will locate ten of the national parks, historical sites, and/or recreational areas in Texas. Illustrate the map with symbols representative of each area.
4. Students will use “Birding in Texas” and work in small groups to present evidence that assesses the validity of this statement: “Turning 10,000 acres back into natural areas can be economically profitable to Texas.”
5. Using the “Birding in Texas” section, students will locate the nine World Birding Centers on a “Texas Rivers Map” (Appendix). They will create a birding symbol for each World Birding Center site and draw it on the map.
6. Students will write a tall tale about fishing. They will use one of the most popular fish for recreational fishing listed in “Recreational Fishing in Texas.”
7. Using “Recreational Fishing in Texas” and “Hunting in Texas” as reference, students will design a new Texas hunting or fishing license.
8. Students will draw and/or use magazine pictures to create a poster advertising one of the events listed in “Fairs, Festivals and Special Events.” The poster should be designed to attract visitors to that part of the state.
9. Students will pretend they are a non-Texan and write a postcard to a family member in their home state. Using an index card, students will illustrate what they have seen on one side and write about their experiences and compare their observations to their home state on the other side.

Horseback riders in Jones State Forest in Montgomery County. Texas Forest Service photo.