

# LESSON 34

## Culture and the Arts in Texas

- *Texas Performing Arts Organizations*
- *Texas Museums of Art, Science, History*
- *Film and Television Work in Texas*
- *Texas Medal of the Arts Awards*
- *Texas Institute of Letters Awards*
- *National Arts Medal*
- *Poets Laureate of Texas*
- *State Historians of Texas*
- *State Musicians of Texas*
- *State Artists of Texas*
- *Public Libraries*

### SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 19, 21, 22, 23

7 - 19, 21, 22, 23

8 - 26, 29, 30

### STAAR

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 1, 3

8 - Social Studies - 2

4, 7 - Writing - 1

### INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Using information from "State Cultural Agencies Assist the Arts," students will research one of the state agencies that administers cultural services and funds. If possible, students should use the Internet websites of these organizations in order to gather information; otherwise, they may write to the agency with an inquiry as to its purpose and resources. Each student will write a paragraph to explain the purpose and resources of the agency he or she researched.
2. Using information from "Texas Museums of Art, Science, History," students will research one museum they would like to visit. Students may find this information by visiting the museum's website or by writing a letter to the director. Each student will then plan a visit to the city in which the museum is located and a date on which to visit the museum. Each student should make a list of five questions he or she would like to ask the docent about the purpose and mission of that museum.
3. Students will create a poster advertising a major motion picture made in Texas, using information found in "Film and Television Work in Texas" as a reference.

*The Bob Bullock Texas State  
History Museum in Austin.  
Robert Plocheck photo.*



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4. Students have learned that a movie or television production will be filmed in Texas. Divide the class into five groups. In four groups and using information from “Film and Television Work in Texas,” students will develop four plans to present to the fifth group, the production company, convincing them to use their community for the project. Each of the four groups should address these topics in creating its plan: location scouts, casting crew, caterers, production company, accommodations, and technicians. The fifth group, the production company, should create its own plan that includes the specific criteria they will use as each group presents. They will use this to determine which of the four groups wins the contract.
5. Students will choose one of the “Texas Medal of the Arts Awards” recipients. The students will research the career of their recipient and design a billboard to be displayed.
6. Using the “Texas Institute of Letters Awards” section, students will design a book jacket that captures the essence of the title of a work of literature or journalism.
7. Students will design a billboard commemorating winners of the National Arts Medal from the “National Arts Medal” section.
8. Students will create a business card for the latest poet laureate, state historian, state musician, or state artist(s), using information from “Poets Laureate of Texas,” “State Historians of Texas,” “State Musicians of Texas,” and “State Artists of Texas.”
9. Using the information found in the “Public Libraries in Texas” section, students will locate their closest public library. They will draw and label a street map from their school to the library. If computer facilities are available, students may wish to use one of the mapping programs to find directions to the nearest public library both from their school and their home. Students should be encouraged to visit the public library. If they do not have a public library card, they should be encouraged to obtain one. Finally, students will visit the school or public library to check out a book on Texas culture or the arts.
10. Students will contact their nearest public library and inquire about weekly activities at the library. Students may be encouraged to volunteer to organize a weekly story time for children (if one is not currently available) or to participate in some other appropriate activity at the library.

