

# LESSON 37

## Education in Texas

- *Texas Public Schools*
- *UIL Winning Schools*
- *Higher Education in Texas*
- *Universities and Colleges*

### SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 21, 22, 23

7 - 21, 22, 23

8 - 29, 30

### STAAR

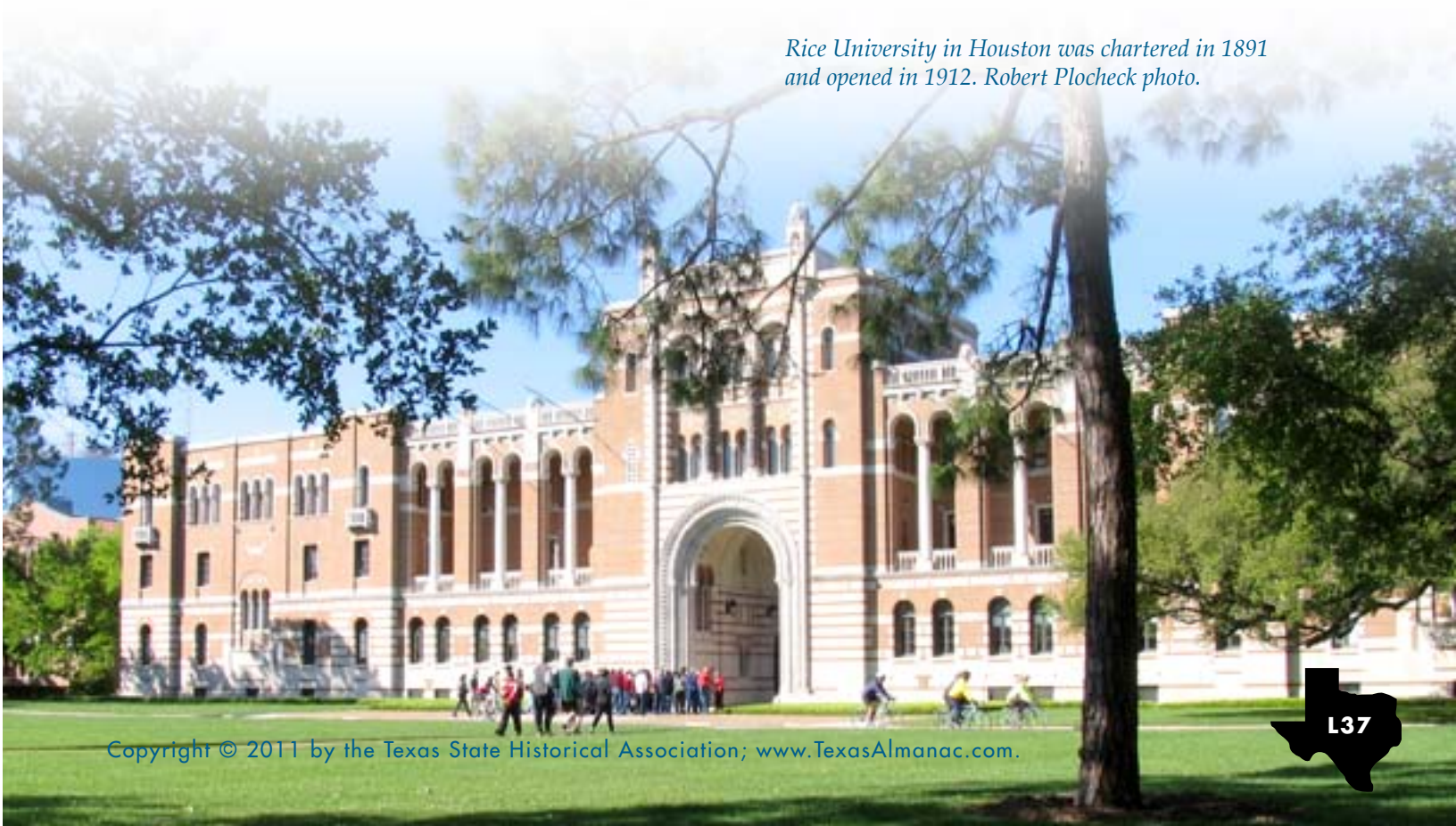
4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 1, 2, 3

### INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Students will read information about Public Schools and complete the chronology and timeline activities.
  - a. Determine the year in which each of these events occurred.
  - b. Write the year of each event in the blank.
  - c. Draw a timeline and place each event on it.
    - \_\_\_\_\_ The Texas public school system was established.
    - \_\_\_\_\_ The Texas Congress designated land to support public schools and a state university.
    - \_\_\_\_\_ President Lamar advocated setting aside public land for public schools.
    - \_\_\_\_\_ The Legislature adopted HB 72 “no-pass, no-play.”
    - \_\_\_\_\_ Texas students must pass the exit-level TAKS as a graduation requirement.

*Rice University in Houston was chartered in 1891 and opened in 1912. Robert Plocheck photo.*



- \_\_\_\_\_ For the first time, free textbooks were provided.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The State Legislature was to designate at least 10 percent of its tax money for schools.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The state fund apportionment was sixty-two cents per student.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Public schools were reorganized by the Gilmer-Aikin Laws.

2. Students will read information about Public Schools and answer these questions.
  - a. What was the purpose of the Public School Reform Act of 1995?
  - b. Identify the three types of charter schools.
  - c. HB 72 (“no pass; no play”) provided for a six-week suspension from extracurricular activities, but was changed to three weeks. In your opinion, does this change in suspension time encourage academic achievement among students involved in extracurricular activities? Defend your position.
3. Students will research their school’s TAKS scores, dropout rates, and attendance rates. In small groups, students will brainstorm strategies that can be implemented to improve their school’s scores/ rates. Strategies will be presented to the class and to the principal.
4. Students will create a Ribbon-Tied Invitation (Appendix) to an open house for a their school. The invitation should include date, day, time, location, program, and speakers with an illustration of the school in the center of the invitation.
5. Using information from “Recent Developments in Texas Higher Education,” students will write an editorial concerning one of the “Actions of the 81st Legislature.”
6. Using information from “Universities and Colleges,” students will select ten Texas universities or colleges and construct a bar graph showing the most recent enrollment. To enhance their bar graph, students should be encouraged to research each university or college to discover the appropriate school colors and mascots. The students will then use these colors on the bars of the graph. They could also decorate paper with pictures of the various mascots.
7. Students will select a school in their University Interscholastic League Conference using information from the “UIL Winning Schools” table. They will write a congratulatory letter, design a winning ribbon or medal, and plan a pep rally for the school’s academic or athletic accomplishment.
8. Students will write a letter to the admissions office of a college or university of their choice, requesting a school catalog. They will use the catalog to research the courses, tuition, fees, books, housing, etc. Using this information, students will create a spreadsheet that reflects an overview of their freshman year.
9. Each student will create an acrostic using the word “EDUCATION.”