

LESSON 4

Spanish Rule

- *Prehistoric Texas*
- *The Spanish Explorations*
- *The French Explorations*

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 1, 2, 21, 22, 23

7 - 1, 2, 21, 22, 23

8 - 1, 2, 23, 29, 30

STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

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

8 - Social Studies - 1, 2

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Students will illustrate each of the four basic stages of cultural advancement for prehistoric Texas, using the “Prehistoric Texas” section. Each student should fold a sheet of unlined paper into four equal sections. Each section should be labeled with the name of a stage in the prehistoric era and illustrated to reflect the culture of that period.
2. Use “The Spanish Explorations” and “The French Exploration” sections for students to work in small groups to create a living statue of one of the Spanish or French explorers. Roles to be assigned are:
 - a. illustrator, who will create the props;
 - b. mapmaker, who will chart the explorer’s route(s);
 - c. author, who will write a brief narrative for the commemorative plaque that will be a part of the living statue; and
 - d. spokesperson, who will relate the explorer’s experiences during the living statue presentation.

As students complete these tasks, they must also determine the design of their living statue, using themselves and the materials they have created. For example, one student might be the explorer claiming the land by planting a flag; another student might be the Indian meeting him/her; and other students might be representative of the environment. Two groups may be assigned the same explorer — one from the perspective of the Spanish or French explorer and the other from the viewpoint of the Indians. As each group presents its living statue, class members will complete a chart with this information: name of explorer, sketch of statue, and facts learned about this explorer from the presentation.

3. Students use all three sections to create a six-panel cartoon that depicts early Texans meeting European explorers.



Francisco Vasquez de Coronado explored the Texas High Plains looking for gold and silver. (Coronado’s March — Colorado by Frederick Remington, courtesy of the Library of Congress.)