

# SPECIAL LESSON 3

## Mesquite Trees in Texas

- *From the Texas Almanac 2006–2007*
- [www.texasalmanac.com/topics/science/ubiquitous-mesquite](http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/science/ubiquitous-mesquite)

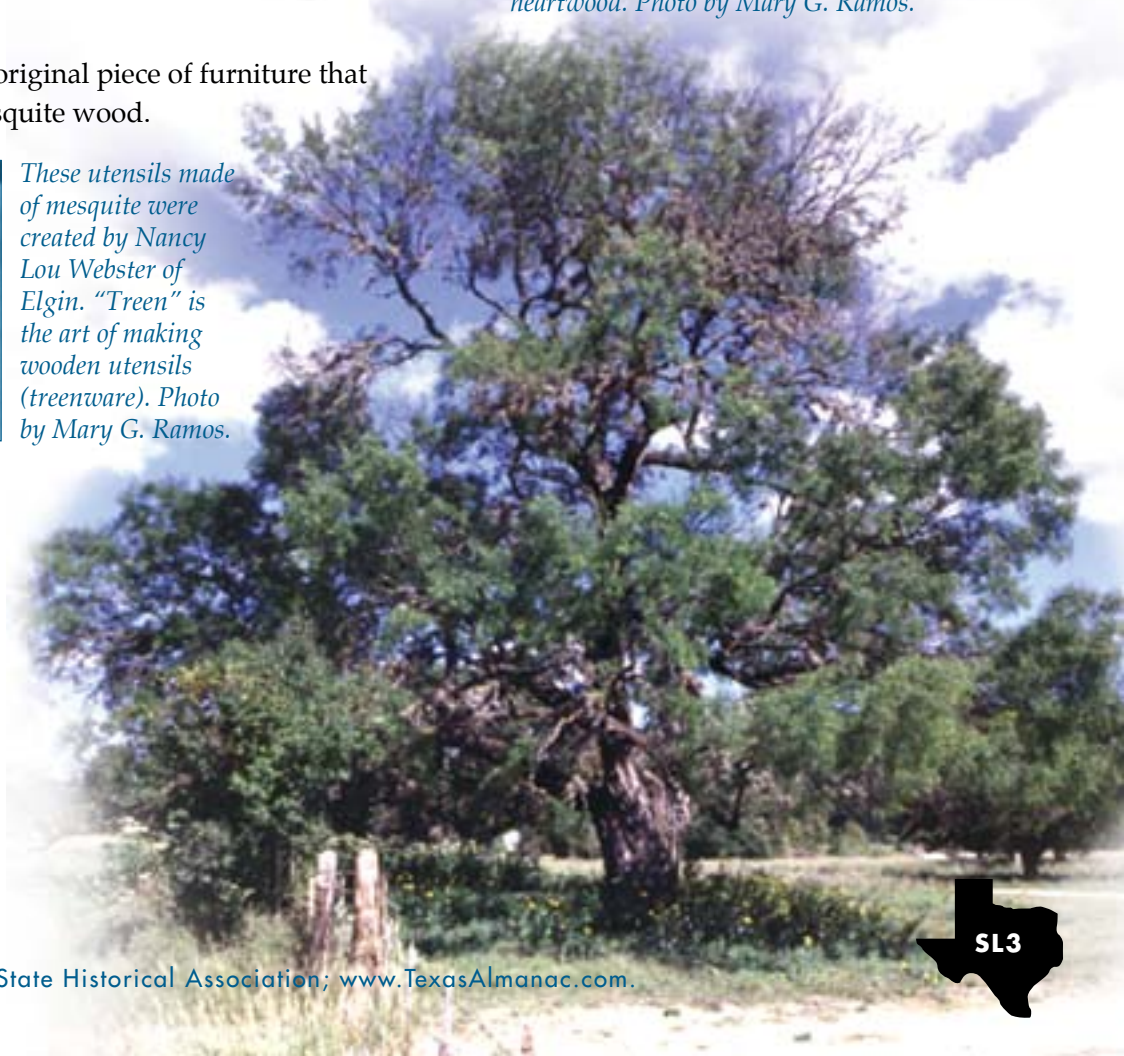
### INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Students will use a **Texas Outline Map** (Appendix) and page 32 or the **online article** to locate and label the different varieties of the mesquite tree.
2. Using pages 32–36, students will construct a T-chart, listing the advantages and disadvantages of the mesquite tree.
3. Students will use pages 32–36 to list uses of the mesquite tree on **Barking Up the Mesquite Tree**. They will write these labels for each of the large branches: “Uses by Indians,” “Uses by Settlers,” “Current Uses.” On the smaller branches, they will write three specific uses.
4. Students will design an original piece of furniture that could be made from mesquite wood.



*These utensils made of mesquite were created by Nancy Lou Webster of Elgin. “Treen” is the art of making wooden utensils (treenware). Photo by Mary G. Ramos.*

*This National Champion Honey Mesquite grows on a ranch in Real County in South-Central Texas. The Texas Forest Service’s Big Tree Registry lists its size as 183 inches in circumference, 56 feet high, with a crown spread of 87 feet. It was last measured on Jan. 14, 2009. Photo by Susan M. Sander, Texas Forest Service.*



### SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 6, 7, 21, 22, 23

7 - 8, 9, 10, 30, 31, 32

8 - 10, 29, 30

### STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 3

8 - Social Studies - 2



*These mesquite logs show the beautiful heartwood. Photo by Mary G. Ramos.*

## Barking Up the Mesquite Tree

