

LESSON 30

TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

Local Government

- *Mayors and City Managers of Texas Cities*
- *Regional Councils of Government*
- *Wet-Dry Counties*
- *County Courts, County and District Officials*

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 17, 18, 21, 22, 23

7 - 15, 17, 21, 22, 23

8 - 19, 22, 29, 30

STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

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

8 - Social Studies - 3

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT QUESTIONS: Students will read "Local Government" in the Government section of the Texas Almanac and answer these questions.

- There are _____ counties in Texas. The number has not changed since _____.
- The least-populous county is _____.
- The county with the most residents is _____.
- Each county has a _____ court.
- More than _____ percent of the state's population lives in cities and towns.

*The Blanco County Courthouse in Giddings.
Photo by Ron Billings; Texas
A&M Forest Service.*



LESSON 30 – Local Government

- 2. INTERVIEW A CITY OFFICIAL:** Students will interview a city official listed in “Mayors and City Managers of Texas Cities.” Questions might include:

- **educational background**
- **term of office**
- **job responsibilities**
- **qualifications for the office**
- **selection process (appointment or election)**
- **job benefits.**

Students will present this information to the class from a first-person perspective.

3. PROBLEM AND PROPOSAL:

- Students will **attend a meeting** of their local governmental body and take notes.
- Using these notes, students will brainstorm ideas for local improvements such as new traffic lights, sidewalks, streets, etc.

They will **write a proposal** addressing the problem and present it to their local governmental body or to their class.

4. REGIONAL COUNCIL

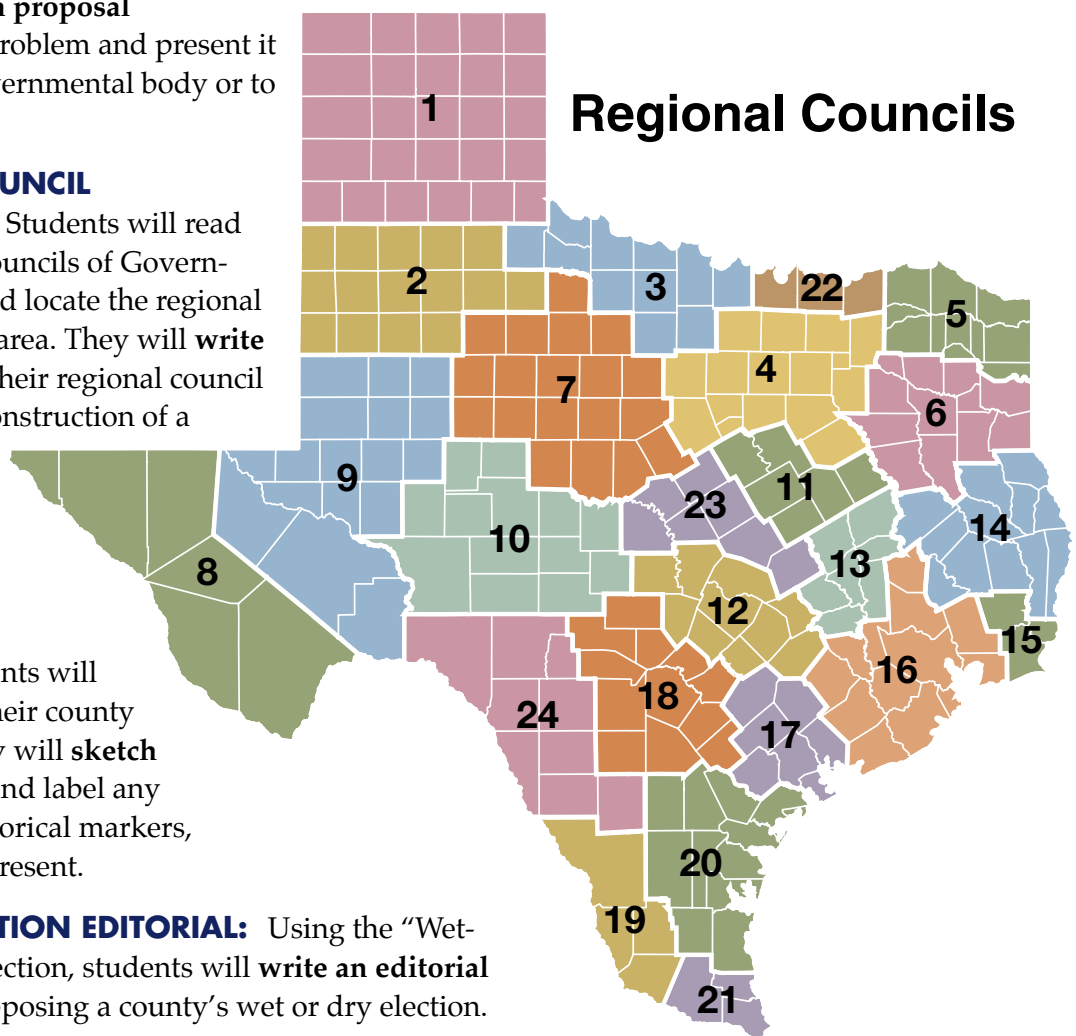
PROSPECTUS: Students will read the “Regional Councils of Government” section and locate the regional council for their area. They will **write a prospectus** to their regional council requesting the construction of a community swimming pool.

5. COUNTY COURTHOUSE

SKETCH: Students will make a visit to their county courthouse. They will **sketch the courthouse** and label any monuments, historical markers, and/or statues present.

- 6. WET-DRY ELECTION EDITORIAL:** Using the “Wet-Dry Counties” section, students will **write an editorial** supporting or opposing a county’s wet or dry election.

- 7. CONTACT A COUNTY OFFICIAL:** Using the “Texas County and District Officials” section, students will contact one or more of their **county officials** to determine the job description and qualifications for the position(s); see suggestions in Activity No. 2. They will report back to the class with this information.



There are 24 Regional Councils of Government in Texas. More information can be found at: <http://www.txregionalcouncil.org/>