

SPECIAL LESSON 16

TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

Texas County Maps

- *From the Texas Almanac 2014–2015*

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- 1. COLOR-CODED STATE MAP:** Allow students to become familiar with the Texas county maps and articles found in the Counties section, pages 233–413, of the *Texas Almanac 2014–2015*.

Over several days or outside of class, students will create a **color-coded map of Texas** based on county **etymologies** (who or what a place is named for; see History paragraph in each county profile article or online at: <http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/counties/home>).

Students also will need to create a **corresponding key** on their map. (See Appendix for *Texas Counties Map with Names*.) Category suggestions include:

Original settlers or pioneers

Republic of Texas leaders

Alamo heroes

Texas Revolution participants

Indian tribe or person

Spanish word or place

Geographic feature or landmark

Texas Rangers

TEACHER NOTE: This could be either an individual or group project, depending on the level of your students.

2. COUNTY MAP AND ESSAY:

Each student will **pick a county** and read that county's article. They will **draw an outline** of their county on a sheet of paper or on the **Student Activity Sheet** and note the location of some of the facts in the article.

Students will write an **essay** on the back of the map based on these questions:

- What assumptions can you draw about the county based on the article?
- Which facts are most important or unique?
- What type of people might live in various areas of the county and why?
- What part does geography and the environment play?
- What evidence is there for these points?



This Travis County map uses many of the symbols that are explained on the “Legend for Map Symbols.”

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 6, 7, 21, 22, 23

7 - 8, 9, 11, 21, 22, 23

8 - 6, 29, 30, 31

STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 3

8 - Social Studies - 2

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- 3. CREATE A BOARD GAME:** This activity can be a multi-day project for groups of around 4 to 6 students. Each group will create an “Around Texas in 254” board game where players make their way around the state.

To help students create their game, give each student a copy of the **Game Guide**, which will help them make decisions before they begin to build or assemble their game.

As much of the game should be made, and all students in the group should take part in making and constructing the game: For example:

GAME BOARD and TOKENS
TEXT WRITTEN IN EACH SPACE
DICE or SPINNER
DRAWING CARDS

Use classroom supplies, or if needed, some game items and supplies can be brought from home. Teachers should make sure that the activities are evenly distributed so all students feel they had a part in creating their game!

Students can learn from making this game, and they can help each other learn while playing!

- 4. COUNTY BY COUNTY STATE MAP:** This is a 2-to-3 day project for the whole class. The 254 counties of Texas should be divided among the class. Teacher input will be helpful here to target certain counties or areas for struggling or advanced students.

Counties can be assigned **alphabetically or grouped by area** (see the **Chart**, which was created for 35 students). If you have more students, some students can be in charge of creating the **key or the scale or assembling the large map**, or counties can be re-assigned as needed.

Not all counties are to the same scale, but are close; however, a **cross-curricular connection** could be to have students figure out the correct scale for each of their counties. This will make every step more difficult, though, as they will not be able to trace anything directly.

PROJECT DIRECTIONS:

A. Give each student a few pieces of plain white paper to **trace their counties** out of the Texas Almanac or from county maps that can be downloaded from the website. Use one sheet for each county, or try to fit 2 or 3 to a page. Find online maps at:

<http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/counties/home>

B. While tracing their counties, students should **include important geographical characteristics**, such as major roadways, lakes, rivers, county seat, other major cities and towns, and other major features, either natural (mountains) or human (airports).

C. Counties should be **labeled** in a standard way and **colored** according to region.

D. Once completed, students will **cut out the individual counties and assemble them to create a giant Texas map**. This can be done on a large piece of butcher paper or poster board, with counties glued on or applied using double-stick tape.

E. Each student should **sign or “autograph”** the map in the blank areas around the map. Have students add other decorative drawings around the map, as space allows.

F. Consider having each class **compete against one another** for the best map. Hang them in the hallways, set out a “ballot box,” and ask all students in the school to vote for their favorite!

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STUDENT ACTIVITY

County Map and Essay

Pick a county and read that county's article in the Texas Almanac or online at:

<http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/counties/home>

Draw an outline of the county below and note the location of some of the facts you read in the article. On the back of this sheet, write a short essay answering these questions:

- What assumptions can you draw about the county based on the article?
- Which facts are most important or unique?
- What type of people might live in various areas of the county and why?
- What part does geography and the environment play?
- What evidence is there for these points?

MY COUNTY IS

“Around Texas in 254” Game Guide

To help your group devise your board game, think through the following questions:

How can you incorporate history, culture, climate, and other factors into the board game spaces?

How can your game take players across as much of Texas as possible?

Where can you locate “safe spaces” around the board?

Where will you locate bonus spaces that will move tokens forward more quickly? How many will there be?

Where can you locate penalty spaces that will move pieces backward? How many?

How will you make sure that all group members can play at one time?

What will be used for tokens or game pieces?

How do players advance on each turn? *(Drawing a card? Spinning a wheel? Rolling dice? Answering a question?)*

Where will the game start and end?

Is there a story that goes along with the game’s objective?

How do you win? *Is it a race? (Candyland or Chutes & Ladders) Do you accumulate the most money? (Monopoly or Life) Do you collect some sort of chips or tokens?*

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STUDENT ACTIVITY

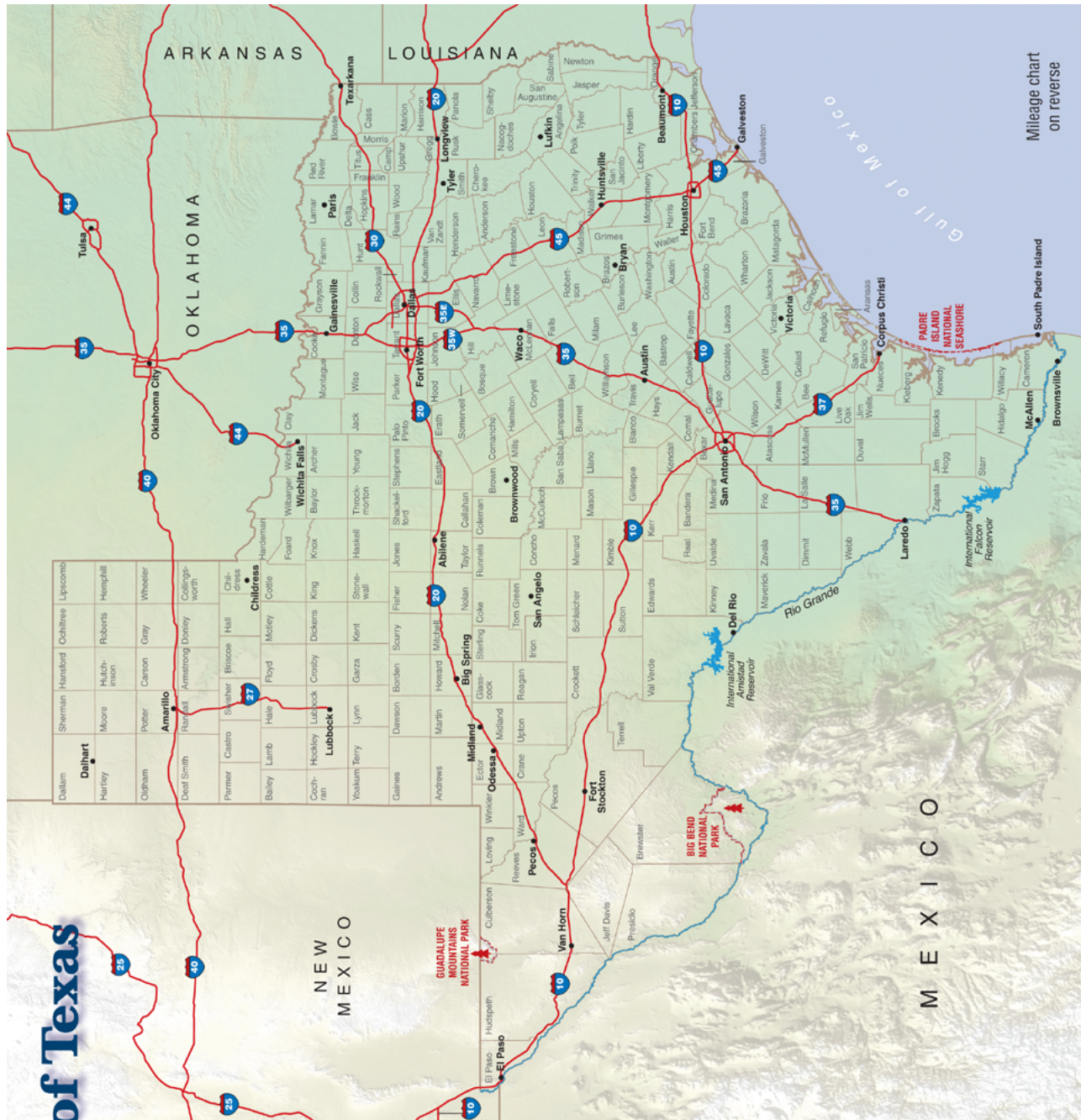
County by County State Map Chart

1	Anderson	Freestone	Navarro	Hender- son	Cherokee	Smith	Van Zandt	
2	Andrews	Ector	Dawson	Gaines	Midland	Martin	Winkler	
3	Bosque	Hood	Hill	Erath	Somervell	Johnson	Hamilton	
4	Calhoun	Refugio	Goliad	Bee	San Patricio	Victoria	Jackson	Aransas
5	Camp	Gregg	Upshur	Cass	Bowie	Red River	Morris	Titus
6	Carson	Gray	Armstrong	Donley	Colling- sworth	Randall	Briscoe	
7	Childress	Hall	Cottle	Foard	Hardeman	Motley	Wilbarger	
8	Cochran	Crosby	Garza	Hockley	Lubbock	Lynn	Terry	Yoakum
9	Coleman	Callahan	Comanche	Brown	Eastland	Stephens	Shackelford	Mills
10	Dallam	Hartley	Moore	Sherman	Oldham	Potter	Deaf Smith	
11	Dickens	Kent	Knox	King	Haskell	Stonewall	Fisher	Jones
12	Dimmit	Frio	Medina	La Salle	Kinney	Maverick	Uvalde	Zavala
13	El Paso	Loving	Culberson	Reeves	Hudspeth	Presidio	Jeff Davis	Brewster
14	Glasscock	Borden	Howard	Scurry	Sterling	Irion	Mitchell	Reagan
15	Hansford	Hemphill	Hutchinson	Ochiltree	Lipscomb	Roberts	Wheeler	
16	Nacog- doches	Harrison	Panola	Rusk	Shelby	San Augustine	Sabine	Marion
17	Hopkins	Wood	Rains	Hunt	Franklin	Delta	Fannin	Lamar
18	Jasper	Tyler	Newton	Orange	Hardin	Jefferson		
19	Kaufman	Ellis	Grayson	Collin	Dallas	Rockwall		
20	Lamb	Castro	Parmer	Swisher	Hale	Bailey	Floyd	
21	Leon	San Jacinto	Polk	Angelina	Trinity	Houston		
22	Liberty	Galveston	Chambers	Brazoria	Fort Bend	Harris		
23	Live Oak	McMullen	Webb	Duval	Nueces	Kleberg	Jim Wells	
24	Madison	Waller	Grimes	Burleson	Brazos	Walker	Washington	Montgomery
25	Matagorda	Wharton	Austin	Colorado	DeWitt	Lavaca	Gonzales	
26	Robertson	Milam	McLennan	Limestone	Falls	Coryell	Bell	
27	San Saba	McCulloch	Mason	Llano	Lampasas	Gillespie	Blanco	Burnet
28	Schleicher	Taylor	Runnels	Nolan	Menard	Coke	Concho	Tom Green
29	Starr	Jim Hogg	Kenedy	Hidalgo	Cameron	Brooks	Zapata	Willacy
30	Sutton	Real	Edwards	Kerr	Kimble	Bandera		
31	Tarrant	Palo Pinto	Parker	Denton	Montague	Wise	Cooke	
32	Throck- morton	Wichita	Jack	Clay	Archer	Baylor	Young	
33	Upton	Crockett	Terrell	Val Verde	Ward	Pecos	Crane	
34	Williamson	Travis	Hays	Lee	Fayette	Caldwell	Bastrop	
35	Wilson	Guadalupe	Atascosa	Bexar	Karnes	Kendall	Comal	

Legend for the Symbols on the Texas County Maps

	Principal road
	Secondary road
	Local road
	Divided highway
	Interstate highway
	U.S. highway
	State highway
	Farm-to-market road
	Local roads
	Loop
	Railway
	Railway name
	River or creek
	Lake
	Intermittent water source
	Intracoastal Waterway
	County seat
	Incorporated town
	Unincorporated town
	County boundary
PECOS	Name of neighboring county
400'	Elevation
880'	Highest point in county
	Major airport with scheduled jet service
	Municipal airport
	Military airport
	National park or wildlife management area
	Federal land
	State park or wildlife management area
	State land
	Ranger station
	Time zone line
	Boundary of prison or military installation

Counties of Texas and Symbols



Counties of Texas

A close-up map of each county is included with each county article on pages 233–413 of the *Texas Almanac 2014–2015*. Below is a guide to the symbols used on those maps:

Legend to counties

- Principal road
- Secondary road
- Local road
- Divided highway
- Interstate highway
- U.S. highway
- State highway
- Farm-to-market road
- Local roads
- Loop
- Railway
- BNSF
- Railway name
- River or creek
- Lake
- Intermittent water source
- Intracoastal Waterway
- County seat
- Incorporated town
- Unincorporated town
- County boundary
- PECOS Name of neighboring county
- Elevation
- Highest point in county
- Major airport with scheduled jet service
- Municipal airport
- Military airport
- National park or wildlife management area
- Federal land
- State park or wildlife management area
- State land
- Ranger station
- Time zone line
- Boundary of prison or military installation