

SPECIAL LESSON 6

TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12

7 - 4, 6, 10, 13, 21

8 - 1, 10

STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

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

8 - Social Studies - 1, 2

Stagecoaching in Texas

- *From the Texas Almanac 2008–2009*

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. **COMPARE AND CONTRAST:** Students will read “Stagecoaching in Texas” on pages 24–32 of the *Texas Almanac 2008–2009* or the **online article**:

<http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/history/stagecoaching-texas>

and any other resources available. They will **compare and contrast** the journey of the stagecoach with the other major forms of overland transportation in Texas, such as railroads, automobiles, and horse-drawn wagons.

Make sure to include their history, struggles, decline, and impact. This may be done in the form of a **speech, or a visual or technological presentation**.

2. **WORD SEARCH:** Complete the **Stagecoaching in Texas Word Search** by finding the words that answer the questions on the guided-reading **Student Activity Worksheet**.
3. **STAGECOACH SCHEDULE:** Students will **create an operations schedule** that would travel throughout Texas to at least 5 different major locations. They can use the **Student Activity Worksheet** to help them think through and organize their information and ideas.

Each student should **present his or her schedule** in a spreadsheet (to add some technology TEKS) or on a posterboard.



In the 1939 film Stagecoach starring John Wayne and Claire Trevor, human drama was played out on the move.

Stagecoaching in Texas Word Search

1. In 1837, the stage from Houston to Washington-on-the-Brazos took _____ hours. (*number of hours spelled out*)
2. The main source of income for stagecoach operators was a _____ contract. (*2 words*)
3. The type of carriage that most people associate with the word “stagecoach” is the _____ coach.
4. The leather strips that served as what we would call “shock absorbers” were known as _____ on the stagecoach.
5. Canvas-covered wagons with a roll-down top served the more rugged routes in _____ (*2 words*)
6. Stops throughout the journey would be made at 15- to 30-mile intervals at either an _____ or station, depending on the part of Texas you were in.
7. Stagecoaches carried passengers inland from the two busiest ports in Texas at the time, _____ and Indianola.
8. The office that was in charge of distributing mail contracts to companies was the U.S. _____ . (*2 words*)
9. In 1858, the first Butterfield stage left St. Louis for _____ , arriving safely 24 days later. (*2 words*)
10. By the _____ , Texas had over 30 stage lines in operation. (*2 words*)
11. During the Civil War, stagecoach service decreased in most of Texas due to _____ . (*2 words*)
12. According to the article, stagecoach _____ were like a “right of passage.
13. A cited newspaper article on stagecoach travel tips said that the best seat was next to the _____ .
14. In cities, hotels often served as stations, including the famous _____ in San Antonio. (*2 words*)
15. Though still useful for getting out to rural areas, from town to town, stagecoaches had to compete with _____ by the late 1800s.
16. The last long-haul stage route in Texas lasted until 1904 between the towns of Alice and _____ .
17. The last known use of a horse-drawn vehicle in Texas was in _____ during World War II, where it mostly served employees and children of the nearby Dow Chemical plant. (*2 words*)

A circa 1904 painting by Frederic Remington shows the perils of stagecoach travel on rough terrain.

Special Lesson 6 – Stagecoaching in Texas

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Stagecoaching in Texas Word Search

L	S	D	E	R	A	N	G	A	P	N	L	N	O	I	S	S	I	M
E	E	S	C	S	S	E	C	C	U	S	A	N	F	R	E	N	C	D
E	S	G	O	V	E	R	N	M	E	N	T	M	A	I	L	N	N	T
V	A	C	N	N	V	O	A	Y	O	V	T	A	P	C	L	H	M	G
U	E	C	C	S	E	B	I	R	T	D	E	T	G	O	I	L	G	E
S	S	E	O	I	E	B	L	H	H	R	X	E	I	E	V	A	E	N
A	S	S	R	M	T	E	I	V	O	Y	A	G	S	R	S	K	U	S
I	K	S	D	E	H	R	O	T	R	N	S	P	A	P	N	E	E	P
S	C	N	E	S	T	I	E	H	O	T	J	U	N	A	W	J	L	N
S	A	I	P	Y	J	E	B	E	U	L	E	L	F	N	O	A	T	C
I	T	I	V	A	E	S	R	G	G	U	E	G	R	O	R	C	S	O
M	T	T	E	I	X	R	V	X	H	D	M	M	A	E	B	K	S	D
S	A	I	P	W	L	E	C	K	B	D	E	B	N	M	U	S	E	S
E	N	D	D	O	I	W	G	M	R	E	N	E	C	A	P	O	H	A
D	A	E	P	L	E	O	A	O	A	U	G	L	I	S	E	N	H	X
N	I	P	O	C	O	N	L	R	C	R	E	N	S	R	I	B	E	E
A	D	X	O	E	E	H	V	N	E	T	R	E	C	N	O	E	N	T
R	N	E	P	R	M	A	E	T	S	D	H	O	O	R	T	C	E	T
G	I	P	F	M	I	D	S	S	K	N	O	P	S	A	W	D	E	S
F	N	P	N	N	N	A	T	G	L	A	T	T	C	A	R	S	T	E
L	S	D	N	R	M	N	O	A	P	N	E	N	O	I	S	S	I	W
E	E	S	E	T	S	E	N	C	U	S	L	N	V	R	E	N	C	D
E	S	U	S	E	L	P	A	S	O	E	E	E	S	P	A	N	N	T
V	A	O	S	D	A	O	R	L	I	A	R	A	P	C	Y	H	M	G
U	P	C	I	S	E	B	I	R	T	D	E	T	G	O	B	B	G	E

Stagecoach Schedule Worksheet

Create an operations schedule that would travel throughout Texas to at least 5 different major locations. Use the questions, below, to think through and organize your information and ideas. Present your schedule in a spreadsheet or on a posterboard.

Choose at least 5 locations: _____

How long will each portion of the route take? _____

How often will a new stagecoach set out from wherever your “home base” is located? _____

How many stagecoaches will you need to effectively operate? _____

How much will it cost and what will you charge? _____

What other factors must you consider? _____

Will those factors vary for different areas or times of year? _____