

LESSON 34

TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

Culture and the Arts in Texas

- *Texas Performing Arts Organizations*
- *Texas Museums of Art, Science, History*
- *Film and Television Work in Texas*
- *Texas Medal of the Arts Awards*
- *Texas Institute of Letters Awards*
- *National Arts Medal*
- *Poets Laureate of Texas*
- *State Historians, Musicians, Artists*

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 19, 21, 22, 23

7 - 19, 21, 22, 23

8 - 26, 29, 30

STAAR

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 1, 3

8 - Social Studies - 2

4, 7 - Writing - 1

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- 1. STATE AGENCY RESEARCH:** Using information from “State Cultural Agencies Assist the Arts” in the Culture & Arts section of the Texas Almanac, students will **research one of the state agencies** that administers cultural services and funds.

If possible, students should use the Internet websites of these organizations in order to gather information; otherwise, they may write to the agency with an inquiry as to its purpose and resources. Each student will **write a paragraph** to explain the purpose and resources of the agency he or she researched.

- 2. MUSEUM RESEARCH:** Using information from “Texas Museums of Art, Science, History,” students will **research one museum** they would like to visit. Students may find this information by visiting the museum’s website or by writing a letter to the director. Each student will then **plan a visit** to the city in which the museum is located and a date on which to visit the museum.

Each student should make **a list of five questions** he or she would like to ask the docent about the purpose and mission of that museum.

The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin. Robert Plocheck photo.



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3. **TEXAS MOVIE POSTER:** Students will **create a poster** advertising a major motion picture made in Texas, using information found in “Film and Television Work in Texas” as a reference.
4. **WINNING A MOVIE CONTRACT:** Students have learned that a movie or television production will be filmed in Texas. Divide the class into five groups. In four groups and using information from “Film and Television Work in Texas,” students will **develop four plans** to present to the fifth group, the production company, convincing them to use their community for the project. Each of the four groups should address these topics in creating its plan:

- **location scouts** • **casting crew** • **caterers**
- **production company** • **accommodations** • **technicians**

The fifth group, **the production company**, should create its own plan that includes the specific criteria they will use as each group presents. They will use this to determine which of the four groups wins the contract.

5. **TEXAS MEDALIST BILLBOARD:** Students will choose one of the “Texas Medal of the Arts Awards” recipients. The students will research the career of their recipient and **design a billboard** to be displayed.
6. **BOOK JACKET DESIGN:** Using the “Texas Institute of Letters Awards” section, students will **design a book jacket** that captures the essence of the title of a work of literature or a piece of journalism.
7. **NATIONAL MEDALIST BILLBOARD:** Students will **design a billboard** commemorating winners of the National Arts Medal from the “National Arts Medal” section.
8. **BUSINESS CARD DESIGN:** Students will **create a business card** for the latest poet laureate, state historian, state musician, or state artist, using information from “Poets Laureate of Texas,” “State Historians of Texas,” “State Musicians of Texas,” and “State Artists of Texas.”



The old movie set of Contrabando in Big Bend Ranch State Park was used in the made-for-TV movies Streets of Laredo and Dead Man’s Walk. Photo by Robert Plocheck.