

# SPECIAL LESSON 12

## TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

### Texas Almanac Archive

- *Editions from 1857 through 2004–2005*

#### INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

##### 1. CONTRAST THE FIRST EDITION (1857) WITH A RECENT EDITION (CONTENT):

Students can find the *Texas Almanac* 1857 (the Almanac's first edition) on the Texas Almanac Archive: <http://www.texasalmanac.com/archive>

Have them begin by looking through the **Table of Contents** (page 3 in Archive edition and also in this lesson) and take note of the material included. **Compare the 1857 version** to the Contents of any print or online edition from the last decade.

Choose **three differences** between the 1857 edition and the recent edition and, based solely on the table of contents and your knowledge of Texas history, **explain why** these changes may have been made over the past 150 years.

**NOTE:** The length and depth required for this activity will be determined by the teacher as appropriate for the students' age and skill level.



*Sixty-seven editions of the Texas Almanac have been published since 1857. Most can be accessed at the Almanac Archive.*

##### 2. CONTRAST THE FIRST EDITION (1857) WITH A RECENT EDITION (WHAT'S FIRST?):

Look at the first section of the 1857 edition entitled "Months, Chronology, and Gardening." Scan through the pages of this section and take note of what kind of information is presented there. Then look at any edition from the past decade. **What is the first section of that edition?**

Using your knowledge of Texas history and other resources (your textbook, the "Brief Sketch of Texas History" section of a recent Texas Almanac, etc.) **explain why** you think the original edition led off with "Months, Chronology, and Gardening" and contrast why a recent Almanac leads off with its first topic. What is the purpose behind this? What does that tell you about the purpose of the publication itself and how usage may have changed over the years?

**NOTE:** The length and depth required for this activity will be determined by the teacher as appropriate for the students' age and skill level.

#### SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 21, 22

7 - 21, 22, 23

8 - 29, 30, 31

#### STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

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

8 - Social Studies - 5

## SPECIAL LESSON 12 – Texas Almanac Archive

- 3. CENSUS STATISTICS:** Using the Texas Almanac Archive, students will go through the census data and other information given **for the county in which you live**, going as far back as your county can be found in the Almanac.

Create a **chart or graph** detailing population statistics as best you can with the given information and considering the gaps between some editions. Keep in mind that census data is only taken every 10 years, so your information should reflect the same as much as possible.

Include with your chart an explanation of some of the changes in the way information is provided and possible reasons why: i.e., reporting demographic information in percentages, rather than exact numbers.

- 4. OTHER DATA THROUGH TIME (OBJECTIVE):** Using the Texas Almanac Archive, **choose a topic** that can be objectively measured, such as production of a specific crop. Look at the same crop at decade intervals (as much as possible) and chart how production of that crop has changed.

**Describe** what factors may have influenced changes in the statistics, such as inflation or drought, and **include an explanation** of how those and other factors may have had an effect.


- 5. OTHER DATA THROUGH TIME (SUBJECTIVE):**

Have students **choose a topic** that can be subjectively measured, such as:


- **advertisements**
- **endorsements**
- **references to political parties**

Choose at least **five different editions** of the Texas Almanac, spaced as evenly as possible, and evaluate **similarities or differences** shown through these primary sources.

GALVESTON ADVERTISEMENTS 311



Imported direct from the North and from Europe.  
**ADOLPH FLAKE**, 166 Market Street, Galveston Texas  
 Importer and Dealer in  
**STAPLE AND FANCY GROCERIES,  
 WESTERN PRODUCE, FRUITS, LIQUORS, CIGARS ETC.  
 GARDEN SEEDS,**  
Of every variety and description, put up in papers or in packages, according to order. Five pounds, or less, can be sent by mail, for which the postage is only eight cents per pound.  
 LANDRETH'S Philadelphia Seeds always on hand; also every variety of European Seeds, of direct importation, offered to dealers at New-York wholesale prices.  
 Orders from the country promptly attended to.



**H. C. L. ASCHOFF,**  
**DRUGGIST AND CHEMIST.**  
Wholesale and Retail Dealer in  
**Drugs, Medicines, Paints,  
 PERFUMERIES, ETC.,**  
 175 Market Street, bet. 21st and 22d Streets,  
**GALVESTON, TEXAS.**  
Prescriptions accurately prepared day and night.

*A garden seed ad and a druggist ad from the Texas Almanac 1868.*

THE TEXAS ALMANAC.

*Everyone Should Know the Great  
 Antiseptic Properties of*

# POND'S EXTRACT

*The Old Family Doctor*



Price 50 Cents.

Stops:

Toothache  
 Earache  
 Nose-bleed  
 Hemorrhage  
 Rheumatic Pains  
 Neuralgic Pains

Good For

Mouth Wash  
 Sunburn  
 Complexion  
 Chapped Hands  
 Sore Muscle  
 Catarrh

Relieves


Inflammation  
 Sore Throat and Eyes  
 Lameness  
 Sprains  
 Burns  
 Cuts and Bruises

A bottle of Pond's Extract in your home is a physician always within reach—one that has had 60 years experience curing pain. The genuine is sold **only** in sealed bottles with buff wrapper.

**Accept No Substitutes**

*At left, a patent medicine ad from the Texas Almanac 1904; at right, an electric utility ad from the Texas Almanac 1941–1942.*

ADVERTISEMENTS.



**Accustomed  
 to Danger...  
 in PEACE-TIME!  
 Ready for  
 Emergency...  
 ANYTIME!**

Most of your hundreds of fellow citizens whose combined efforts supply your electric service work every day under conditions similar to war. Mobilized for swift expansion of service to you as well as for maintenance of adequate service under all conditions, your electric service people continually apply all their science, skill and effort to make your cheap electric service always available.

TEXAS ELECTRIC SERVICE COMPANY



# TEXAS ALMANAC 1857

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