

SPECIAL LESSON 15

TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

Sports in Texas

- *From the Texas Almanac 2014–2015*
- *From the Texas Almanac & UIL websites*

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- 1. SPORT AND SCHOOL RESEARCH:** Students will use the “STATE: High School Champions” lists on pages 210–214 of the *Texas Almanac 2014–2015* (also in previous editions) and the archived high school sports lists on the Texas Almanac website and/or the UIL website:

<http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/sports/sports> <http://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/archives>

Students will choose a sport and a school that recently won that sport’s championship.

Using the online archived champions lists on the Almanac or UIL websites, students will research whether their chosen school or others in the same district have previously won that sport’s championship or been in the playoff game.

They can use the **Student Activity Sheet** to document their research and conclusions.

Students should then **pair up**: either two students with **different sports in the same school district**, or two

students with the **same sport but in different districts**. They should try to draw conclusions about the school or district’s sports performance based on their research. Conclusions should be presented in a **claim, evidence, and commentary statement**, such as:

STRUCTURE EXAMPLE: We believe that something is true based on our observations and the evidence given here (preferably more than one example). With this evidence, it’s easy to see why this is what we believe because . . .

ACTUAL EXAMPLE: My teacher is the best History teacher I’ve ever had because he/she has engaging lessons, is passionate about the subject, and gives me tools to learn and process what we’re doing. I know that if I take advantage of the tools he/she has given me, I’ll be truly successful this year!

- 2. TEXAS SPORTS MAD-LIBS:** The teacher will introduce the activity by going through the “Mad-Libs” style sheet and reading the outcome to the class. Then, give students the **Student Activity Sheet** to complete. They can find the answers in the Texas Almanac’s Sports section located on pages 210–229 of the *Texas Almanac 2014–2015*.

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 19, 21, 22, 23

7 - 19, 21, 22, 23

8 - 26, 29, 30, 31

STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 3

8 - Social Studies - 2



Denton Guyer players celebrate their 2012 4A Division I victory by dousing their coach at Cowboys Stadium. Photo by Jeffrey Bishop; 1stPhoto Texas.

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STUDENT ACTIVITY

Sport and School Research

DIRECTIONS: Look at the “STATE: High School Champions” lists on pages 210–214 of the *Texas Almanac 2014–2015* (also available in previous editions) and the archived high school sports lists on the Texas Almanac website and/or the UIL website:

<http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/sports/sports>

<http://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/archives>

Choose a sport and a school that recently won that the championship. Use the online archived lists to research your sport and school and record your findings here:

SPORT

SCHOOL

Has the school you chose or others in that district previously won the championship or been in the playoff? _____

Does that school or schools from that district frequently show up in the “winners circle” of that sport? _____

Look at the county map or maps for your chosen school to find information about the area. What conclusions can you draw about this school or district’s sports performance? _____

Pair up with a student with a *different* sport in the *same* school district *OR* with the *same* sport but *different* districts. Draw conclusions on sports performance based on both of your research. Present conclusions in a claim, evidence, and commentary statement: _____



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STUDENT ACTIVITY

Teacher's Mad-Libs Collection Sheet

WORD TYPE	STUDENTS MAD-LIBS	ANSWER
Adjective:	_____	high
Adjective:	_____	athletic
Noun beginning with "L":	_____	League
Year:	_____	1910
Place:	_____	Texas
Plural noun:	_____	schools
Noun beginning with "T":	_____	Texas
Year:	_____	1978
Number:	_____	10 (or 17 for separate divisions)
Noun:	_____	enrollment / population
Adjective:	_____	college
Noun:	_____	Division
Adjective:	_____	Big
Number:	_____	12
Year:	_____	1994
Formal place:	_____	Austin
Skill set:	_____	Tech
Formal name:	_____	Baylor
Letter (two):	_____	A&M
Direction:	_____	Southeastern
Adjective:	_____	Christian
Verb:	_____	compete / play / participate
Nation:	_____	USA
Number:	_____	82
Adverb:	_____	tightly
Direction:	_____	Southwest
Noun:	_____	host
Noun:	_____	Bowl
Noun:	_____	Cotton
Adjective:	_____	second
Adjective:	_____	professional
Formal place:	_____	Houston
Formal place:	_____	Dallas
Cowboy accessory:	_____	Spurs
Number:	_____	10
Number:	_____	3
Container:	_____	basket
Body part:	_____	foot
Number:	_____	2
Number:	_____	45
Year:	_____	1972
U.S. capital	_____	Washington

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STUDENT ACTIVITY

Texas Sports Mad-Libs

Find the answers to these statements by using the Sports section on pages 210–229 of the *Texas Almanac 2014–2015*.

PARAGRAPH 1 – HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Texas has a long and rich history of sports at the _____ school, college, and professional
(*adjective*)
levels. In Texas, the organization that governs academic and _____ competition
(*adjective*)
among schools is called the University Interscholastic _____, or UIL. The UIL has
(*noun beginning with L*)
actively been working since _____. The largest governing group of _____
(*year*) (place)
private _____ is TAPPS, or the _____ Association of Private and
(*plural noun*) (noun beginning with T)
Parochial Schools, which began in _____. Between the two organizations, there are (as
(*year*)
of the published 2012 results) _____ divisions, based on the school's _____.
(*number*) (noun)

PARAGRAPH 2 – COLLEGE SPORTS

In _____ sports, the largest schools participate in the various conferences of
(*adjective*)
_____ I, or D-1 sports. The most significant of these conferences in Texas is the
(*noun*)
_____ Conference, which was established in _____ and includes the
(*adjective*) (number) (year)
University of Texas at _____, Texas _____ University, and _____ University.
(*formal place*) (skill set) (formal name)
In 2012, Texas _____ & _____ left for the _____ Conference and was replaced
(*letter*) (*letter*) (direction)
by Texas _____ University. The conference also includes six schools outside of
(*adjective*)
the state. Texas universities and colleges also _____ in other conferences, such as
(*verb*)

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STUDENT ACTIVITY

Texas Sports Mad-Libs

Conference _____, and have, at times, been players on the national stage. Though no
(*nation*)

longer in existence, for _____ years, Texas was a contributor to one of the nation's most
(*number*)

_____ -knit conferences — the _____ Conference, or SWC. Texas also
(*adverb*) (direction)

plays _____ to numerous _____ games in December and January. The oldest
(*noun*) (noun)

and most famous of these is the _____ Bowl, played annually in Fair Park in Dallas.
(*noun*)

PARAGRAPH 3 – PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

With the _____ largest population in the country, Texas hosts several major markets
(*adjective*)

for _____ sports, with multiple teams in both _____ and the _____
(*adjective*) (formal place) (formal place)

area. Don't forget San Antonio, with its successful NBA franchise — the San Antonio _____.
(*cowboy accessory*)

In total, Texas is home to _____ professional sports franchises, including _____ in _____ ball
(*number*) (number) (container)

(all of which have won at least one championship!); one hockey team (the Dallas Stars, which
were champions in 1999); two _____ ball teams, the Texans and Cowboys (which are five-
(*body part*)

time Super Bowl champions); two major league soccer teams; and _____ Major League Baseball
(*number*)

teams. The Astros have played in Houston since 1962, when they were originally called the
Colt _____s, and the Rangers, which came to Texas in _____, when they moved from
(*number*) (year)

_____. Although both teams have played in the World Series in the last decade,
(*U.S. capital*)

neither have won a championship. Texas is home to many Olympians in various sports.

