

# SPECIAL LESSON 18

## TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

### The State of Sports in Texas

- *From the Texas Almanac 2016–2017*

#### PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Students should know the following to successfully take part in these activities:

- The prevalence of sports in modern popular culture and the media.
- The ability to conduct independent research using the resources available to them and an understanding of how to check the reliability and accuracy of information taken from websites, newspaper articles, and books.
- The ability to look at indexes and works-cited pages in their classroom textbooks to identify the different resources used in the textbook.

#### INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- 1. SPORTS FILL IN THE BLANK:** Students will read the article “The State of Texas Sports: Lone Star Fans Ride the Wild Winds of Change” by Norm Hitzges in the *Texas Almanac 2016–2017*. Then, discuss with students how important sports (or a particular sport) is in their school or in their community. Have they seen that importance change when the teams are winning or losing? How do they feel these changes in success affect the culture in their school or community? Finally, have students complete **The State of Texas Sports Student Activity Sheet**.



*The Dallas Cowboys faced the Green Bay Packers in the Divisional Round on Jan. 11, 2015. The Cowboys lost 26–21 amid a controversial call. Photo courtesy of the Dallas Cowboys.*

#### SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 5, 19, 21, 22

7 - 1, 13, 19, 21, 22, 23

8 - 2, 10, 23, 27, 29

#### STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

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

8 - Social Studies - 2, 4



## SPECIAL LESSON 18 – The State of Sports in Texas

- 2. NEWSPAPER ARTICLE:** This is a multi-part lesson in which students will (1) choose a Texas sports team (professional or college), (2) research that team, (3) fill out the **Sports Article Research Student Activity Sheet**, and, (4) **write a newspaper article** about their team and its performance during a specific year.

To begin, students will **choose a Texas sports team** and **research its history**, such as when and where it was formed, its win-loss ratio, its participation in playoffs, extraordinary players, among other facts. *See the Resources section* of this lesson for a partial list of links to information. For example, the Texas Almanac website sports page contains abbreviated histories and team records for professional teams: <https://texasalmanac.com/topics/sports/sports>

Extensive information also can be found on each team's official website. Teachers also may want to print out team pages for your students to compare in class.

After researching their team, students will **choose one year** they find particularly interesting, perhaps because of the team's winning performance or because of its unusual (or usual) losses.

Using descriptive language, students will write a newspaper article describing their team's performance in the year they have chosen. The article will answer the questions found on the **Sports Article Research Student Activity Sheet**.

*For additional points*, students will **illustrate their article** with photographs of the team and players from their chosen year. Photographs can be copied from books, newspapers, and online. Students may draw illustrations instead of using photographs.

### RELATED RESOURCES:

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

<http://texashistory.unt.edu/>

<https://news.google.com/>

<http://www.dallasnews.com/archive/>

<http://arlington.newspaperarchive.com/>

<http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/USAToday/search.html?loc=interstitialskip>

[http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives/?p\\_product=KRHA-FW&p\\_theme=histpaper&p\\_action=keyword](http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives/?p_product=KRHA-FW&p_theme=histpaper&p_action=keyword)

<http://www.expressnews.com/archive/>  
(NOTE: Subscription)

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/archive/search/>  
(NOTE: Subscription)

<http://www.newsbank.com/>  
(NOTE: Many libraries and/or school districts will have subscriptions.)

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/texshare/databases>  
(NOTE: Newspaper Source is a database available through Texas State Library's TexShare program.)

## Special Lesson 18 – State of Sports in Texas

### STUDENT ACTIVITY

# The State of Texas Sports

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the following questions using article “The State of Texas Sports” by Norm Hitzges in the *Texas Almanac 2016–2017*.

1. What do the Houston Texans have to worry about following their 2014 season? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The Dallas Cowboys have won only \_\_\_\_\_ playoff game(s) since their Superbowl win in 1995.
3. The Cowboy’s star quarterback \_\_\_\_\_ has been sidelined often because of his physical condition.
4. After University of Texas coach \_\_\_\_\_ left that position, the Longhorns picked up \_\_\_\_\_ to lead the team in 2014.
5. The Aggies are part of the \_\_\_\_\_ conference, along with other powerhouses, such as Alabama, LSU, and Auburn.
6. Texas teams were able to reach the World Series of baseball in both \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The Texas Rangers seemed to appreciate manager Jeff Banister’s slogan of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. NBA Basketball coach Greg Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs led his team to win national titles in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The three Texas NBA teams are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Golfer Jordan Spieth turned professional after playing one-and-a-half years for the \_\_\_\_\_ golf team.

# Sports Article Research

**DIRECTIONS:** To help you write a newspaper article about your chosen sports team, answer the following questions.

1. What is the team's name, where are they located, and how long has the team been active? If the team relocated, from where did they relocate and when did that occur?
2. What are the names of some of the team's key players who were active during the year which your article will cover? What positions did they play? What did commentators at the time think made them special?
3. How did the team compare to other teams across the country at the time?
4. What did commentators at the time think made the team good or bad?
5. Using the power of future knowledge, "predict" what will happen to the team in the near and far future.