

SPECIAL LESSON 3

TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 6, 7, 21, 22, 23

7 - 8, 9, 10, 30, 31, 32

8 - 10, 29, 30

STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 3

8 - Social Studies - 2

Mesquite Trees in Texas

- *From the Texas Almanac 2006–2007*

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. **TREE MAP:** Students will read “The Ubiquitous Mesquite” on pages 32–36 of the *Texas Almanac 2006–2007* or the online article:

<http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/science/ubiquitous-mesquite>

Use the table on page 32 (or the **Poster** in this lesson) and a **Texas Outline Map** (see Appendix) to locate and label the different varieties of the mesquite tree found in Texas.

2. **T-CHART:** Using pages 32–36, students will construct a T-chart listing the advantages and disadvantages of the mesquite tree.
3. **BARKING UP THE MESQUITE TREE:** Students will use pages 32–36 to list uses of the mesquite tree on **Barking Up the Mesquite Tree Student Activity Sheet**. They will write these labels for each of the large branches: “Uses by Indians,” “Uses by Settlers,” “Current Uses.” On the smaller branches, they will write **three specific uses**.
4. **FURNITURE DESIGN:** Students will design an original piece of furniture that could be made from mesquite wood.

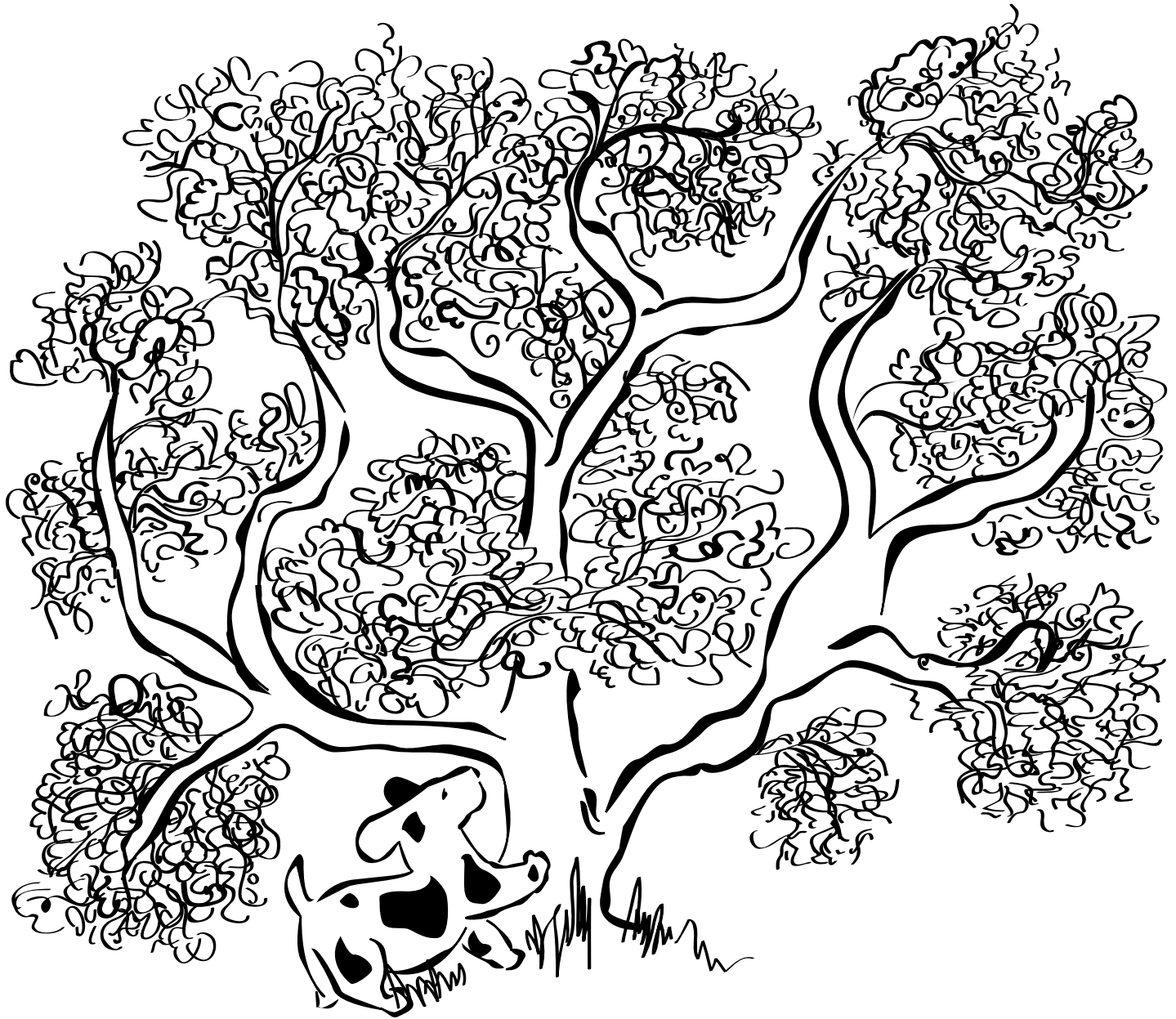


These utensils made of mesquite were created by Nancy Lou Webster of Elgin. “Treen” is the art of making wooden utensils (treenware). Photo by Mary G. Ramos.

This National Champion Honey Mesquite grows on a ranch in Real County in South-Central Texas. The Texas A&M Forest Service’s Big Tree Registry lists its size as 183 inches in circumference, 56 feet high, with a crown spread of 87 feet. It was last measured on Jan. 14, 2009. Photo by Susan M. Sander, Texas A&M Forest Service.



Barking Up the Mesquite Tree



Mesquite Varieties Native to Texas

Scientific name	Common name(s)	Where found
<i>P. glandulosa</i> var. <i>glandulosa</i>	Honey mesquite, algarrobo, ironwood	All regions except extreme East Texas
<i>P. glandulosa</i> var. <i>prostrata</i>	Running mesquite	All regions except extreme East Texas
<i>P. glandulosa</i> var. <i>torreyana</i>	Torrey mesquite	Trans-Pecos and Southwest Texas high plains
<i>P. pubescens</i>	Screwbean or screwpod mesquite, tornillo	Trans-Pecos
<i>P. reptans</i> var. <i>cinerascens</i>	Creeping or dwarf screwbean mesquite	Lower Rio Grande Valley
<i>P. laevigata</i> var. <i>laevigata</i>	Mezquite or algarrobo	Nueces County only
<i>P. velutina</i>	Velvet mesquite	Far West Texas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “P.” before the species name is the abbreviation for the genus name <i>Prosopis</i>. • Var. is the abbreviation for “variety.” <p><i>The photo shows the beautiful heartwood of large mesquite logs.</i></p>		