Unit 2: Age of Contact
7th Grade Lesson Plan: Texas Today
(45-60 minutes)

Objective	Students will be able to identify specific examples of Spanish and American Indian influence on the geography of Texas today. These examples include the names of human and geographic features of Texas. Students will be able to identify the diverse cultural origins of the location names. 1. ***We will*** read short passages about various natural and human geographic features of Texas to identify Spanish and American Indian influence in modern Texas. 2. ***I will*** use the clues and information in each passage to correctly label significant geographic features on a map of Texas.
Key Concepts	• Texas geographic features have been influenced by a variety of cultures throughout history, including Spanish and American Indian. • The evidence of Spanish and American Indian culture appears in the names of human and geographic features. • Identifying significant contemporary human and geographic features of Texas.
Skills	• Reading for context and specific information. • Correctly identifying and labeling features on a map using relative and absolute location. • Identifying the significance of a reading passage.
Essential Question	What evidence can we see today of Spanish or American Indian culture and influence on Texas geography?
Assignment	**Warm-up** • Students attempt to determine evidence of Spanish and American Indian influence on a map of significant geographic features of Texas. **Lesson** • Students read short passages about the following human and natural geographic features of Texas: - The Llano Estacado - Palo Duro Canyon - The Rio Grande - El Paso

	- Waxahachie - Nacogdoches • Students use the information from the reading to label their map of Texas and record significant information about each location. • The slideshow provides images to accompany each reading passage. **Exit Ticket** • Students answer a question identifying two statements that provide the most accurate examples of the influence of Spanish and American Indian culture on Texas geography today. • This question is based on the new 8th grade STAAR item type called "Multiselect."

Materials	***Links to the following materials***
	
	1. Slideshow *(Suggested use: present on the overhead; Upload to an educational platform like google classroom; print extra copies for note-taking assistance)*
	2. Warm-up / Exit Ticket *(Suggested printing: 1 per student. Assignment prints two copies per page.)*
	3. Assignment *(Suggested printing 1 per student)*
	   a. Advanced Level work
	   b. Grade Level work
	   c. Foundations Level work

Differentiation	1. Scaffolding including classwork at three different levels of academic ability 2. Visuals representations of directions 3. Chunking text information 4. Sentence Stems 5. Multiple-choice questions 6. Reduction in writing
TEKS	• ***7.2(B)*** Identify important individuals, events, and issues related to European exploration of Texas such as Alonso Alvarez de Pineda, Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, the search for gold, and the conflicting claims between France and Spain. • ***7.18(C)*** Identify examples of Spanish influence and the influence of other cultures on Texas such as place names, vocabulary, religion, architecture, food, and the arts. • ***7.20(B)***: Analyze information by applying absolute and relative chronology through sequencing, categorizing

	relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and conclusions. • **7.20(C)** Organize and interpret information from outlines, reports, databases, and visuals including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps. • **7.21(A)** Create and interpret thematic maps, graphs, and charts representing various aspects of Texas during the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries.

Teacher Guide: **Texas Today**

Warm-up	• Students will look at a map displaying specific significant natural and human features of Texas. Based on the map they will make a claim about Spanish or American Indian cultural influence they see based on the map.
	• Slides 2 and 3 restate the directions and provide sentence stems to guide student responses when sharing with the class.
	• Slides 4 and 5 provide the essential question and the "We will / I will" statements for the lesson.
Lesson	• Students read five short passages about six Texas locations including:
	- The Llano Estacado
	- The Palo Duro Canyon
	- El Paso
	- The Rio Grande
	- Waxahachie
	- Nacogdoches
	• Using the information in each reading, students label the lettered locations on their map.
	• Slides 6 – 11 provide images that correspond with the geographic location discussed in each reading.
	• Advanced: Students also write 3 significant facts about each location on their map after they have labeled it. There are also three additional comprehension questions, including two based on new 8th grade STAAR item types: Match Table Grid, and the Short-Constructed Response.
	• Grade Level: Students write 3 significant facts about each location on their map after they have labeled it.
	• Foundations: Students label their maps choosing from multiple-choice options for each location. The reading passages are adjusted for a lower level of literacy.
Exit Ticket	• Students answer a question identifying two statements that provide the most accurate examples of the influence of Spanish and American Indian culture on Texas geography today.

	• This question is based on the new 8th grade STAAR item type called "Multiselect."

Primary Sources and Other Resources Used

- Streng, Evelyn Fielder. *Rio Grande River in Santa Elena Canyon 2*. 1951. Photograph, 35 mm. The Portal to Texas History. https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth860548/.
- Escarpment that defines the northern edge of high plains of the Llano Estacado. View looking east from a point 14 km south of San Jon, Eastern New Mexico. The view today is very different from that of 2003. Numerous wind turbines have been installed along these precipitous cliffs. This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Llano_Escarpment.jpg
- The entrance to Big Cave in Palo Duro Canyon in Randall County, Texas, United States. © 2024 Larry D. Moore. Licensed under CC BY 4.0. Attribution Specification: Reuse without attribution is a violation of the license. The photographer's name and the link to the license are required. A link back to this source is requested. Example: *Larry D. Moore, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons*. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Big_Cave_Palo_Duro_Canyon_Texas_2024.jpg
- Highsmith, Carol M, photographer. *Skyline view of El Paso, Texas*. El Paso United States Texas, 2014. -03-23. Photograph. https://www.loc.gov/item/2014631659/.
- Highsmith, Carol M, photographer. *TheEllis County Courthouse in Waxahachie, Texas, south of Dallas*. Waxahachie Ellis County United States Texas, 2014. -05-10. Photograph. https://www.loc.gov/item/2014632669/.
- Texas Historical Commission. [Stagecoach Inn], photograph, Date Unknown; (https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth954743/: accessed September 10, 2024), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, https://texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Texas Historical Commission.