

Texas Today *Foundations*

Unit 7: Early Statehood

Name:

Date:

Period:

Preserving Cultural Heritage in Texas Today

From 1845 to 1860, **immigration to Texas increased significantly**. Germans, Czechs, Irish, French, Canadians, Poles and others immigrated to Texas, bringing their own languages, food, traditions, customs, and heritage with them. While they often worked to **assimilate**¹ into American and Texan culture, they often also **preserved** their own heritage as they began their new lives in Texas.

In addition to the different immigrant groups who came to Texas, there were also Mexican Texans, or Tejanos, and American Indians already living in Texas. These groups have also worked to preserve and maintain their cultural traditions and heritage over time.

Today, many **Tejanos**, **American Indians**, and **descendants**² of immigrants in Texas still honor their own unique cultures and heritage in a variety of ways. In this assignment, you will **choose** one group of people from the options in the map below and learn about how people preserve the culture and heritage of this group in Texas today.



¹ Assimilate; totally adopt a new culture and way of life

² Descendant; A person in a family tree who came after the people before. A grandchild is a descendant of a grandparent, for example.

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|---|---------|-------|------------------|---------|
| I chose to learn about . . . <i>(Circle or Highlight)</i> | Germans | Poles | American Indians | Tejanos |
|---|---------|-------|------------------|---------|

| |
|---|
| <p>How do people in Texas today work to preserve the culture and heritage of this group? <i>(Complete at least 3 of the options offered in the box below.)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Events like _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Offering classes: ____ language ____ cooking ____ the arts ____ other</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Preserving special places like _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Holding meetings like _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Making traditional foods like _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain) _____</p> |
|---|

| | |
|--|---|
| One <i>question</i> I have about what I learned in the reading is . . . | I would like to know <i>more</i> about . . . |
| | |

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| <p>BONUS: Use the internet to research at least ONE interesting thing you learned in the reading about this group of people. Provide more information about your chosen topic here:</p> <p><i>(This portion is not required. It is worth up to 10 additional points.)</i></p> |
| |

Directions: Now learn about the **TWO** other people groups from your classmates. Record information about their groups below.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|------------------|---------|
| People Group #2: | Germans | Poles | American Indians | Tejanos |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|------------------|---------|

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|--|
| How do people in Texas today work to preserve the culture and heritage of this group? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events like _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Offering classes ___ language ___ cooking ___ the arts ___ other <input type="checkbox"/> Preserving special places like _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Holding meetings like _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Making traditional foods like _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain) _____ |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|------------------|---------|
| People Group #3: | Germans | Poles | American Indians | Tejanos |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|------------------|---------|

| |
|--|
| How do people in Texas today work to preserve the culture and heritage of this group? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events like _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Offering classes ___ language ___ cooking ___ the arts ___ other <input type="checkbox"/> Preserving special places like _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Holding meetings like _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Making traditional foods like _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain) _____ |