

Unit 12: The Great Depression

7th Grade Lesson Plan: Texas Today

(45 – 60 minutes)

Objective	In this one-day lesson, students will examine the long-lasting influence of the Civilian Conservation Corps as it relates to its work in the establishment of the state park system of Texas. 1. <u>We will</u> examine the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the development of the state park system of Texas. 2. <u>I will</u> use a secondary source material to research one state park of Texas and demonstrate the role of the CCC in the establishment of my chosen park.
Key Concepts	• The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) played a significant role in Texas in a number of ways, including by helping to establish the state park system of Texas. • The work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the construction of Texas state parks is evidence today in the 29 CCC-built state parks that are still in operation today. • New Deal programs like the CCC took part in relief and recovery efforts that are still visible today.
Skills	• Map skills • Conducting online research using a digital archive (the Portal to Texas History) • Identifying and defining new academic terms • Collaboration with classmates and peer teaching
Essential Question	What role did the Civilian Conservation Corps play in the establishment of Texas state parks, and how can we see the legacy of this role today?
Assignment	Warm-up • Students make observations about an image of Caddo Lakes state park and the accompanying caption provided for the image to predict how the image connects to the Great Depression.

	Lesson - Students will use the Portal to Texas History digital archive to research one Texas state park that was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Students will record key information about their chosen park and plot the location of their park on a map of Texas. Students will also identify and define between one to three new or challenging vocabulary terms from their reading. Students will then take part in a peer teaching and learning activity to learn about other state parks, recording the information in their work. Exit Ticket - Students will answer a question based on the 8th grade STAAR item type, Hot Spot, to identify three statements that best characterize the significance and legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Texas.
Materials	1. Slideshow (<i>Suggested use: present on the overhead; Upload to an educational platform like google classroom; print extra copies for note-taking assistance</i>) 2. Warm-up / Exit Ticket (<i>Suggested printing: 1 per student. Assignment prints two copies per page.</i>) 3. Assignment (<i>Suggested printing 1 per student</i>) a. Advanced Level work b. Grade Level work c. Foundations Level work 4. The Portal to Texas History website (<i>information to locate this website is provided in the directions for the lesson in the slideshow. There are no printable materials required for this website.</i>) 5. The book <i>The Civilian Conservation Corps in Texas State Parks</i>; (link: https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth415063/m1/1/)
Differentiation	1. Scaffolding including classwork at three different levels of academic ability 2. Visual representations of directions 3. Chunking text information 4. Reduction in amount of writing

TEKS	• 7.09(A) Identify ways in which Texans have adapted to and modified the environment and explain the positive and negative consequences of the modifications. • 7.20(A) Differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as media and news services, biographies, interviews, and artifacts to acquire information about Texas. • 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.

Teacher Guide: Texas Today

Warm-up	• Students use an image of a pavilion at Caddo Lakes state park and an accompanying caption providing information about the image to draw conclusions about the lesson and how the image connects to the unit. • Slides 2 and 3 provide an enlarged view of the image and sentence stems to guide student responses when sharing with the class. • Slides 4 and 5 provide the essential question and “We will / I will” statements from the lesson.
Lesson	<u>Student Work</u> • Students will read a brief introduction explaining the role the Civilian Conservation Corps played in the establishment of Texas state parks. • Students will follow the steps on the worksheet to select one state park from a list provided and then research their chosen park in a secondary source material called, “The Civilian Conservation Corps in Texas State Parks” which can be found in the UNT digital archives, the Portal to Texas History. https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph415063/m1/1/ • A set of step-by-step instructions are provided in the slideshow that demonstrate how to access the site, search for the material needed, and navigate within the material. • Slides 6 and 7 restate the directions for choosing a state park as directed on page 1 of the student work. • Slides 8 – 14 guide students through the process of accessing the Portal to Texas website, searching for the required material, and navigating within the material. <u>The Portal to Texas History digital archives</u> • In this lesson, students will use the Portal to Texas History to research a Texas state park that was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Portal to Texas History is a digital archive established by the University of North Texas which houses more than 2 million historical items related to Texas history. • The website for the Portal to Texas History is texashistory.unt.edu • Step-by-step directions are provided in the slideshow to show students how to access this website, search for the material needed for the assignment, and navigate within the material.

	• Slides 8 – 14 guide students through the process of accessing the Portal to Texas website, searching for the required material, and navigating within the material. • <u>Advanced</u>: Students research one state park in the designated material from the Portal to Texas History, recording key information about their chosen park and identifying, defining, and constructing a sentence for 3 new or challenging terms from the reading. Students then take part in an activity to learn from their peers about 3 additional state parks. • <u>Grade Level</u>: Students research one state park in the designated material from the Portal to Texas History, recording key information about their chosen park and identifying and defining 1 new or challenging term from the reading. Students then take part in an activity to learn from their peers about 2 additional state parks. • <u>Foundations</u>: Students research one state park in the designated material from the Portal to Texas History, recording key information about their chosen park and identifying and defining 1 new or challenging term from the reading. Students then take part in an activity to learn from their peers about 1 additional state park.
Exit Ticket	• Students will answer a question based on the 8th grade STAAR item type, Hot Spot, to identify three statements that best characterize the significance and legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Texas. • Slides 15 and 16 restate the directions for the exit ticket and provide sentence stems to guide student responses when sharing with the class.

Primary Sources and Other Resources Used

- Hicks, William. [CCC Pavilion - Caddo Lake State Park], photograph, March 30, 2024; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1866003/>: accessed June 12, 2026), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/> .
- Texas. Parks and Wildlife Department. Texas Parks & Wildlife, Volume 62, Number 12, December 2004, periodical, December 2004; Austin, Texas. (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1568653/>: accessed April 27, 2026), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/>; crediting UNT Libraries Government Documents Department.
- Steely, James Wright. The Civilian Conservation Corps in Texas State Parks, book, 2010; Austin, Texas. (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph415063/>: accessed April 27, 2026), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/>; crediting UNT Libraries Government Documents Department.