

Reconstruction: The Civil War Ends and Reconstruction Begins:

Extension Lesson Plan for 7th Grade Texas History (60 minutes)

Following the Civil War, Texas as well as the other Southern states, was faced with many challenges in the aftermath of war. Property damage, loss of wages and workforces sent the Texas agrarian economy into a downturn while the government balanced on the brink of collapse. An influx of migrants in search of land and new life provided a stark contrast to the outlook of the newly freed men and women who were met with lingering injustices and limited opportunities.

The era of Reconstruction, overlapping with the end of the Civil War, was met with many obstacles by the government as they sought to reunite the nation. This lesson will focus on the aftermath of the Civil War in Texas including the political, economic, and social effects that the war had on Texas. Topics covered in the lesson include the effect of the Civil War in Texas: economic, political, social; population changes in Texas; and Emancipation comes to Texas.

Essential Questions

1. What is the significance of Juneteenth?

Students will know the following information based on previous TEKS standards:

Explain how the diversity of Texas is reflected in a variety of cultural activities and celebrations.

Table 1. Lesson Materials, Descriptions, and TEKS for Lesson Content

Printable Lesson Materials	Material Description	Lesson Specific TEKS
Graphic Organizer	<p>This printable graphic organizer was designed to provide a planning template for students to use as they conduct research and plan for a local Juneteenth celebration.</p> <p>Encourage students to search the Portal to Texas History database for images and other sources related to Juneteenth celebrations: https://texashistory.unt.edu/search/?q=juneteenth&t=fulltext&sort=&fq=</p> <p><i>Suggested printing: 1 per student or group</i></p>	7.18(A)