

Unit 9: Reconstruction

7th Grade Lesson Plan: Texas Today

(45 – 60 minutes)

Objective	<p>In this one-day lesson, students will examine the state, county, and municipal levels of government. Students will be able to identify the functions and responsibilities of each level.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>We will</u> examine the purpose, responsibilities, and people involved in the state, county, and municipal levels of government. 2. <u>I will</u> answer questions about each level of government based on information presented in the readings.
Key Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government in the United States is divided into the federal and state levels. • There are three levels of government in each state: state, county, and municipal governments, and each level has its own functions and responsibilities. • One primary way the government at each level can raise revenue to pay for the services it provides is to pass different types of taxes.
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading comprehension • Identifying and categorizing different functions and characteristics of government at varying levels. • Understanding the purpose and responsibilities of government. • Identifying important government officials at various levels. • Online research
Essential Question	<p>What are the three levels of government in Texas, what are the responsibilities of each level, and who are some of the officials at each level?</p>
Assignment	<p>Warm-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students consider and explain what they believe the purpose of government is, and what responsibilities the government should or should not have.

	<p>Lesson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students use a series of three, one-page informational readings about the state, county, and municipal levels of government to answer questions about the responsibilities and functions of each level and the people who are involved in each. <p>Exit Ticket</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students create three short, constructed response answers to demonstrate something they learned about each level of government.
Materials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Slideshow (<i>Suggested use: present on the overhead; Upload to an educational platform like google classroom; print extra copies for note-taking assistance</i>) Warm-up / Exit Ticket (<i>Suggested printing: 1 per student. Assignment prints two copies per page.</i>) Readings (<i>one level – Suggested printing: 1 per student or partner group</i>) Assignment (<i>Suggested printing 1 per student</i>) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Level work Grade Level work Foundations Level work
Differentiation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Scaffolding including classwork at three different levels of academic ability Visual representations of directions Chunking text information Sentence Stems for short, constructed response questions. Reduction in answer choices
TEKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.14(A) Describe the structure and functions of government at municipal, county, and state levels. 7.15(B) Identify major sources of revenue for state and local governments such as property taxes, sales taxes, bonds, and fees. 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.

Teacher Guide: Texas Today

Warm-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students answer questions giving their opinion about the role and responsibilities of government. • Students answer what they believe the purpose of government is, and what the government should and should not be responsible for doing. • 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	<p><u>Readings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before beginning the readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You can use Slide 6 to review the levels of government under federalism - Slide 7 goes on to show a visual representation of the levels of government in the state of Texas. • There are three one-page readings providing basic information about the state, county, and municipal levels of government in Texas. The readings can be completed individually by the students, in partner groups, or together as a class (recommended for struggling students.) • Slides 8 – 11 provide images to accompany the information about the state level of government. • Slide 12 provides an image of a county courthouse to accompany the county level information in the reading. • Slide 13 provides an image of a city street to accompany the municipal information. <p><u>Worksheet:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students use the information in the readings to complete the questions in their worksheet. • <u>Advanced:</u> Students complete short, constructed response questions and a match table grid question to identify and explain the different levels of government and the basic functions and responsibilities of each level.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Grade Level</u>: Students complete matching, match table grid, multiple choice, and short, constructed response questions to identify and explain the different levels of government and the basic functions and responsibilities of each level. • <u>Foundations</u>: Students complete matching, match table grid with one category eliminated for each row, multiple choice with one answer option eliminated, and short, constructed response questions to identify and explain the different levels of government and the basic functions and responsibilities of each level.
Exit Ticket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students complete three sentence stems to explain one thing they learned about the state, county, and municipal levels of government. • Slides 14 and 15 restate the directions and provide sentence stems to guide student responses when sharing with the class.

Primary Sources and Other Resources Used

- Texas County Seats Map. GIS Educational Maps. Texas General Land Office. Accessed 10/9/25. <https://historictexasmaps.com/object/97243>
- Locator Map of Counties in Texas. US Census / US Government work is public domain, my modifications licensed under the [GNU Free Documentation License](#) Accessed 10/9/25.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_counties_in_Texas#/media/File:Texas_Locator_Map.PNG
- Mallory, Randy. [First National Bank, Longview, Texas], photograph, 2011; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc1979279/>: accessed October 13, 2025), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting UNT Libraries Special Collections.
- Boone Photo Co. [Texas State Capitol], photograph, 1947; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph124092/>: accessed October 9, 2025), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.
- Blank map of the states. Wikimedia Commons. Accessed 10/9/25.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Blank_map_of_states.png
- Texas. State Preservation Board. Texas State Preservation Board Strategic Plan: Fiscal Years 2021-2025, report, June 1, 2020; Austin, Texas.
(<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1454300/>: accessed October 13, 2025), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting UNT Libraries Government Documents Department.
- Texas Supreme Court Building. Accessed 10/13/25.
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:TexasSupremeCourtBuilding.JPG>
- Mallory, Randy. [Monuments of Justice: The Historic Shelby County Courthouse], photograph, 199X; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc1980277/>: accessed October 13, 2025), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting UNT Libraries Special Collections.
- Mallory, Randy. [Downtown area in Denison], photograph, September 2007; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc1978977/>: accessed October 13, 2025), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting UNT Libraries Special Collections.