

Lesson Plan

Six Flags

Book: *It's Great to Be a Fan in Texas*

Series: Sports Nation

Level: Voyager

Objective

To help students practice finding and citing specific evidence in a text.

Supplies

- *It's Great to Be a Fan in Texas*
- Six Flags worksheet (attached)

Before the Activity

Print a copy of the Six Flags worksheet for each student.

Activity

The state of Texas has a long and complicated history. The area of land that is now the state has been controlled by a total of six different nations. And before that, it was home to several different tribes of American Indians. Residents of the state are proud of the unique culture all these influences blend together to create.

Chapter 1 (“The Six Flags of Texas”) of *It's Great to Be a Fan in Texas* gives a brief overview of these cultures. Have students read this chapter, using the information about each nation to answer the questions on the Six Flags worksheet. Students should refer to specific facts about each nation, but they should write their answers in their own words. Students should write the page number where they found each piece of information in parentheses at the end of each sentence.

Evaluation

Using the attached answer key to score students' worksheets, for a total of up to 24 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 5 (RI 5.1).

Six Flags

1. Who were the first people to live in Texas? Name three groups of people and what they were known for.
2. What was the first European country to claim and settle land in Texas? Name an explorer from this country and the year he arrived.
3. What was the second European country to settle in Texas? When did people from this country arrive, and what kind of buildings did they build?
4. What was the third flag to fly over Texas? When and why did Texas change hands this time?
5. When did Texas begin a war for independence? Name the flag that flew over Texas after this war and the country it belonged to.
6. When did Texas become a US state? Why did Texan leaders want to join the United States?
7. What was the sixth flag that flew over Texas? Name the year this happened and one of the issues that led up to this change.
8. When did the US Civil War begin? How long did this war last? When did Texas rejoin the United States?

Six Flags **ANSWER KEY**

1. Who were the first people to live in Texas? Name three groups of people and what they were known for. (4 points)

American Indians were the first people to live in Texas (p. 5). The Caddos of East Texas grew corn and sunflowers (p. 6). The Karankawas of the Gulf Coast were skilled fishers (p. 6). The Lipan Apache of West Texas rode horses and shot bows and arrows (p. 6).

2. What was the first European country to claim and settle land in Texas? Name an explorer from this country and the year he arrived. (3 points)

France was the first European country to settle in Texas (p. 6). Explorer Robert de La Salle arrived in 1685 (p. 6).

3. What was the second European country to settle in Texas? When did people from this country arrive, and what kind of buildings did they build? (3 points)

Spain was the second European country to settle in Texas (p. 6). The Spanish began to arrive in the 1700s (p. 6). They built Catholic missions to spread Christianity to Texas (pp. 6–7).

4. What was the third flag to fly over Texas? When and why did Texas change hands this time? (3 points)

The Mexican flag was the third flag (p. 7). Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1820 (p. 7). Because Texas had been a colony of Spain, Mexico took over Texas as well (p. 7).

5. When did Texas begin a war for independence? Name the flag that flew over Texas after this war and the country it belonged to. (3 points)

Texas began fighting for independence in 1835 (p. 8). After the war, the Republic of Texas became an independent country (p. 8). Its Lone Star Flag flew over Texas (p. 8).

6. When did Texas become a US state? Why did Texan leaders want to join the United States? (2 points)

Texas became a state in 1845 (p. 8). Leaders thought the United States could protect Texas from Mexico (p. 8).

7. What was the sixth flag that flew over Texas? Name the year this happened and one of the issues that led up to this change. (3 points)

The sixth flag was the Confederate flag (p. 9). Texas joined the Confederate States of America in 1861 (p. 9). Disagreements over slavery led up to this choice (p. 8).

8. When did the US Civil War begin? How long did this war last? When did Texas rejoin the United States? (3 points)

The Civil War began in 1861 (p. 9). It lasted until 1865 (p. 9). Texas rejoined the United States five years after the war ended, in 1870 (p. 9).