



TEXAS SOCIAL STUDIES REDESIGN OPTIONS

Why The Comprehensive Model for Social Studies Redesign Better Supports Teaching Diverse Cultures



REPETITIVE

- ✗ Huge spans of time LIMITS TOPICS INCLUDING TEXAS HISTORY!
- ✗ Focus is on listing events, rather than showing how events and themes connect and influence each other over time.
- ✗ Content repeated with few content additions.
- ✗ Difficult content like genocide (mandated by legislature) is taught in earlier years.

GRADE 3

Prehistory to 1500

Ancient civilizations had culture.

Native peoples in the Americas traded goods and food.

SUBJECT REPEATS



GRADE 6

Native peoples in the Americas traded goods and food and built pyramids.

GRADE 4

1500 – 1800

Cultures in the Americas were blended.

Cultures in the Americas blended through trade, migration, and shared traditions.

SUBJECT REPEATS



GRADE 7

Trade, conquest, and migration blended Native, European, and African cultures in the Americas, shaping languages, foods, beliefs, and communities.

GRADE 5

1800 – 2000

Cultural Change

Immigration, inventions, and city growth brought new foods, music, and traditions to American and Texan communities.

SUBJECT REPEATS



GRADE 8

Cultural blending in the United States and Texas was shaped by immigration, industrial growth, and global connections, influencing art, music, and technology.



TEXAS SOCIAL STUDIES REDESIGN OPTIONS



COMPREHENSIVE | *Focused Capstone Year of Texas History*

- ✓ Focus is on how ideas and events evolve over time.
- ✓ Smaller time periods means more content including Texas and culture.
- ✓ Difficult content like genocide (mandated by legislature) is taught later.
- ✓ An eighth grade year of Texas history provides an opportunity to revisit the most important ideas in context to America and the world.



GRADE 3

Prehistory to 500s

Early Native American cultures traded foods and pottery and passed down beliefs through storytelling.



GRADE 4

500s – 1500s

Early Native American cultures practiced polytheistic religions and created cultural items using gold, silver, and chocolate, which they traded across the Americas, including Texas.



GRADE 5

1500s – 1800s

Spanish explorers brought guitars and ideas to the Americas, blending their traditions with Indigenous cultures to create new foods, music, language, holidays and celebrations like Los Posadas.



GRADE 6

1800s – 1900s

Tejano culture in Texas blended Spanish, Mexican, and Native traditions through ranching, music, and festivals while Black culture in America and Texas shaped communities through spirituals, gospels, and blues.



GRADE 7

1900 – 2000

In Texas and across America, musicians like Lydia Mendoza blended Hispanic traditions with American music styles, while Scott Joplin introduced ragtime, shaping American sounds.



GRADE 8

Pre-Exploration to 2000

Texas culture blends Black, Native, Spanish, and Mexican roots, seen in music like Corrido and Texas Blues, foods, holidays, including Juneteenth, and place names like Nacogdoches, Wichita Falls, Zavala County.