

Fort Davis

National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Curriculum Materials Grades 6-8

Teacher Notes: Protecting the Past

Topic: Protecting the Past—Why Should I Care? and How You Can Help

Students will investigate the need for and importance of preserving the past. This is an opportunity for students to understand the importance of communities and service.

Objectives and Standards: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/>

Grade 6

Social Studies

113.22: 21,22,23

Language Arts

110.22: 8, 15, 16

Grade 7

Social Studies

111.23: 1, 2, 6, 19, 20, 21, 22

Language Arts

110.23: 8, 15, 16

Grade 8

Social Studies

111.24: 1, 12, 24, 30, 31

Language Arts

110.24: 8, 15, 16

Materials Needed:

Student Handouts:

Why Should I Care?

How You Can Help

Poster board or drawing paper

Research Materials/Internet connection

Lesson Activities:

Historic readings/background information

Student Readings (provided)

Activities and Projects:

1. After reading the articles on historic preservation, students can write a letter advising 21st-century explorers about the challenges of settling an untamed land.
2. Students can also work as groups to create posters with a new slogan for preserving the past or preventing vandalism.
3. Students can choose and act out a scenario listed on the student handout.
4. If the technology is available, students can develop a persuasive PowerPoint to encourage others to help protect the past.
5. Buildings are not the only things that give us insight into people of our past. For a family history, have students interview an older person or veteran in their family and record information about that person's life or military service. The Library of Congress has a Veterans History Project your students might enjoy---<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/vets-home.html>

Wrap-up and Assessment:

Students can be assessed with any method the teacher wishes to use. The rubric developed for the Living Timeline lesson can be modified to assess the creative and group projects of this lesson.

Additional Resources:

Note: The National Park Service does not endorse the websites listed below. They are offered simply as resources for teachers. The Internet offers an unbelievable amount of information, and websites change constantly. Remind students that not all the information found on the Internet is reliable or accurate and therefore should be cross-referenced.

On-line Diaries, Memoirs, Letters and Reports Along the Trails West
(includes such topics as 19th-century phrases and deciphering old handwriting)
<http://www.over-land.com/diaries.html>

American Defenders of Land, Sea and Sky
<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/pad/defenders/index.htm> (Interactive Web Page)

Texas Archeological Society site
<http://www.txarch.org/>

The Texas Historic Sites Atlas
<http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/>

The Handbook of Texas Online
<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/>

Texas Beyond History
<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/>

Texas Treasures from Texas State Library and Archives Commission
<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/index.html>

Texas Map Collection
<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/maps/index.html>

Save Our History – Discovery Channel
<http://www.saveourhistory.com/home.htm>

The Library of Congress – Veterans History Project
<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/vets-home.html>

Texas Forts Trail
<http://www.texasfortstrail.com/>