

LESSON 36

TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

Health and Science in Texas

- *Texas Vital Statistics*
- *Community Hospitals in Texas*
- *State Institutions for Mental Health Services*
- *Texans in the National Academy of Sciences*

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 5, 20, 21, 22, 23

7 - 20, 21, 22, 23

8 - 28, 29, 30

STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 1, 2, 3

8 - Social Studies - 4

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- 1. HEALTH CARE BAR GRAPH COMPARISON:** Assign or allow each student to **choose four counties of similar population**; for example between 10,000 to 19,999, 20,000 to 29,999, etc. Using the Line/Bar Graph Grid (*see Appendix*) and the “Health Care and Deaths in Texas Counties” table in the Health and Science section of the Texas Almanac, **construct a bar graph** comparing the number of physicians, the number of hospital beds, and the total deaths for each county.

Label the X-axis with the county names and their populations. **Label the Y-axis** with numbers in increments of 5, 10, 50, 100, etc., depending on the relative size of the group of counties. **Make three bars for each county using different colors** — one color for **physicians**, a second color for **hospital beds**, and a third color for **total deaths**.

Students should note which county has the highest numbers of physicians and hospital beds compared with total deaths and which had the lowest.

- 2. BIRTH & DEATH RATES LINE GRAPH:** Using the Line/Bar Graph Grid (*see Appendix*) and the “Comparison of Vital Statistics” table, students will **construct a line graph** showing birth rates and death rates for three states and three countries. Use a different color for each category.
- 3. MENTAL HOSPITAL LINE GRAPH:** Students will use the Line/Bar Graph (*see Appendix*) to **make a line graph** that shows the numbers of people using “Hospitals for Persons with Mental Illnesses” (within the section “State Institutions for Mental Health Services”). **Label the X-axis** with the names of hospitals and **the Y-axis** with the numbers of people treated from 0–5,000. **Draw a circle around** the hospital that is closest to your school.

- 4. SCIENCE ACADEMY CERTIFICATES:** Using the “Texans in the National Academy of Sciences” section, students will **design certificates** to be given to the most recent selectees to the Science Academy. Each certificate should include the name of the honoree, the date, and their scientific discipline. Students will create a decorative border for each certificate.

“Old Red” is the original building at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Photo by Robert Plocheck.