LESSON 23
TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

Counties and County Seats

• History
• Courthouses
• Statistics

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. COUNTY RESEARCH PROJECT: Each student will be assigned a separate Texas county to research. This research should include:

- founding of the county
- for whom or what was the county named
- the county seat
- the building of the county courthouse(s)
- recent statistical data

The research will begin in the Texas Almanac with the entry for the specific county. The research also should include information contained on the following Internet websites:

Handbook of Texas Online: http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online
Texas Courthouse Trail: http://www.texascourthousetrail.com/menu.htm
Texas Courthouses: http://www.texasescapes.com/Texas_architecture/TexasCourthouses.htm

2. COUNTY SEAT DATA SHEET: Students should use the County and County Seat Data Sheet as a guide as they research and collect information on their assigned county. This form may be used as the final product, or the students may use this information to create written or computer-generated presentations.

Encourage students to collect pictures of the courthouses for the county. To generate interest and to encourage comparisons, the teacher may wish to display a poster of all 254 courthouses, available through TAMU Press at:

The Lee County Courthouse in Giddings. Ron Billings photo; Texas A&M Forest Service.
County and County Seat Data Sheet

County name: _____________________________________________________________

The county was named for: ________________________________________________

Significance of county name: _____________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Estimated county population today: ____________ Population change since 2000: ______

Physical features: __________________________________________________________

County seat: _____________________________________________________________

Population of county seat: _________________________________________________

The county seat was named for: _____________________________________________

County land area: ________________ square miles Average property value: __________


Ethnicity percentages: _____________________________________________________

Industries, agriculture, other: ______________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Median household income $ ____________ Per capita money income $ ____________

Persons below poverty level _________% Retail sales per capita: $ ______________

How many courthouses have been built in the county? ______________

Date the present courthouse was built: ______________

Description of county courthouse(s): _________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Other notes: ______________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________