INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. **POPULATION FILL-IN-THE-BLANK:** Students will answer the questions on the Student Activity Sheet regarding county populations from the downloadable chart “Population History of Counties, 1850–2010” at: http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/population.

2. **COLOR-CODED COUNTIES MAP:** Using a Texas Counties Map (see Appendix) and the most recent census data on “Population History of Counties, 1850–2010” at: http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/population students will color code counties according to these population categories:

   - 1,000,000 and over
   - 500,000 to 999,999
   - 100,000 to 499,999
   - 50,000 to 99,999
   - 1,000 to 49,999
   - 0 to 999

   Ask the students to create a key for the population categories on their map.

3. **GRAPH & ARTICLE:** Students will use “Population History of Selected Cities, 1850–2000” from http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/population and a blank grid (see Appendix).

   They will select their hometown or a city in their county and construct a line graph reflecting the population changes from 1850 to 2000.

   Upon completion of the line graph, students will write an article for Texas Highways magazine discussing the reasons for the population changes. Encourage students to find other references for their article, such as town articles in the Handbook of Texas Online or other articles.
Population Fill-in-the Blank

Answer these questions about county populations from the downloadable chart “Population History of Counties, 1850–2010” at:
http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/population.

a. The population of Atascosa County in 1940 was approximately _________ times its population in 1890.

b. The population of Comal County was twice as much in 1970 as it was in ________________.

c. Was the population of Ector County in 1920 less than or more than the population of Gillespie County in the same year? ________________

d. How many more people were there in Irion County in 2000 than there were in 1890? ___________

e. Which county had the largest population in 2010? ________________

f. In what year did the population of Limestone County decrease for the first time? ____________

g. The population of Runnels County decreased by approximately 3,700 between what two census counts? __________________

h. The population of Uvalde County in 2010 was approximately _____________ times the population of Wheeler County.