State Government

• Texas’ Chief Governmental Officials
• State Government
• Texas Legislature
• Texas State Judiciary
• Texas State Agencies
• Texas State Boards and Commissions
• State Government Income and Expenditures

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. CHIEF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS: Students will use “Texas’ Chief Government Officials” in the State Government section of the Texas Almanac to complete the Texas Chief Government Officials Student Activity Sheet.

   a. Write the year in which each of these events occurred in the appropriate column.

   b. Write “1” in the appropriate column for the first event that occurred and continue until all events are sequenced.

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LESSON 29 – State Government

2. PERSUASIVE LETTER: Using the “State Government,” “State Senate,” and “House of Representatives” sections as reference for the officials, students will write a persuasive letter to a member of the state executive or legislative branch on one of these topics relating to secondary schools:
   a. Requiring more physical education in the curriculum
   b. Eliminating the fine arts program
   c. Altering the dress code
   d. Requiring community service
   e. Increasing requirements for graduation
   f. Mandating healthful food options in school cafeterias

3. REDESIGN OFFICIAL’S HOME PAGE:
   Students will view http://www.senate.state.tx.us and www.house.state.tx.us. They will then form seven groups. Each group will design a new home page for one of the officials.

4. VISIT FROM LOCAL JUDGE:
   Using the “Texas State Judiciary” section, teachers should invite a member of the local judiciary to speak to their classes about the duties and responsibilities of the judge’s position.

5. STATE AGENCY ADVERTISEMENT:
   In small groups or with a partner and using the “Texas State Agencies” section, students will create a visual advertisement for a state agency.

6. BOARD OR COMMISSION LETTER:
   Using the “Texas State Boards and Commissions” section, students will select a board or commission that piques their interest. They will write a letter of inquiry to that board or commission asking for this information:
   • Purpose of the board or commission
   • Appointment process
   • Qualifications for appointees
   • Benefits of appointees
   • Recent activities of the board or commission

7. REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES:
   Students will use the five-year “State Revenues by Source and Expenditures by Function” table to compute the problems on the Revenues and Expenditures Student Activity Sheet, comparing the earliest to the latest year in the table:

CHECK IT OUT! Teachers should view the website of the Texas State Senate at: http://www.senate.state.tx.us. Click on Senate Kids.
## Texas’ Chief Government Officials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>ORDER</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ann Richards took office as Treasurer of Texas.</td>
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<td>This was the last year that Victor Blanco served as governor under Mexican rule.</td>
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<td>Sam Rayburn was the 32nd Texas Speaker of the Texas House.</td>
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<td>Miriam A. Ferguson took office as governor of Texas for a second term.</td>
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<td>Domingo Terán de los Rios was the Spanish Royal Governor of Texas.</td>
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<td>Kay Bailey Hutchison took office as a United States Senator from Texas.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>William P. Hobby, Jr., took office as the Lieutenant Governor of Texas.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anson Jones left office as the last President of the Republic of Texas.</td>
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<td>Laura Welch Bush became the first lady of Texas.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hardin R. Runnels left office as the governor of Texas.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Greg Abbott took office as the Texas Attorney General.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Annie Webb Blanton became the Superintendent of Public Instruction.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lyndon B. Johnson began serving as a United States Senator.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharon Keller became the presiding judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Revenues and Expenditures

A. Was there an increase or decrease in tax collections from the earliest to the latest year? ____________________________________________________________

What was the percentage of the increase or decrease? ________________

B. Was there an increase or decrease in the net lottery proceeds from the earliest to the latest year? ____________________________________________________________

What was the percentage of the increase or decrease? ________________

C. Was there an increase or decrease in the education expenditures from the earliest to the latest year? ____________________________________________________________

What was the percentage of the increase or decrease? ________________

D. Was there an increase or decrease in the health and human services expenditures from the earliest to the latest year? ________________

What was the percentage of the increase or decrease? ________________

E. Was there an increase or decrease in the public safety and corrections expenditures from the earliest to the latest year? ________________

What was the percentage of the increase or decrease? ________________

F. Was there an increase or decrease in the lottery winnings paid from the earliest to the latest year? ____________________________________________________________

What was the percentage of the increase or decrease? ________________
Lesson 29 – State Government

EARLY TEXAS LEADERS

David G. Burnet: Provisional President of the Republic
Sam Houston: Second President of the Republic
Mirabeau B. Lamar: Third President of the Republic
Sam Houston: Fourth President of the Republic
Anson Jones: Fifth and Last President of the Republic
J. Pinckney Henderson: First Governor of the State