Texas Almanac Archive

- Editions from 1857 through 2004–2005

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. **CONTRAST THE FIRST EDITION (1857) WITH A RECENT EDITION (CONTENT):** Students can find the Texas Almanac 1857 (the Almanac’s first edition) on the Texas Almanac Archive: http://www.texasalmanac.com/archive

   Have them begin by looking through the Table of Contents (page 3 in Archive edition and also in this lesson) and take note of the material included. **Compare the 1857 version to the Contents of any print or online edition from the last decade.**

   Choose three differences between the 1857 edition and the recent edition and, based solely on the table of contents and your knowledge of Texas history, explain why these changes may have been made over the past 150 years.

   **NOTE:** The length and depth required for this activity will be determined by the teacher as appropriate for the students’ age and skill level.

2. **CONTRAST THE FIRST EDITION (1857) WITH A RECENT EDITION (WHAT’S FIRST?):**

   Look at the first section of the 1857 edition entitled “Months, Chronology, and Gardening.” Scan through the pages of this section and take note of what kind of information is presented there. Then look at any edition from the past decade. What is the first section of that edition?

   Using your knowledge of Texas history and other resources (your textbook, the “Brief Sketch of Texas History” section of a recent Texas Almanac, etc.) explain why you think the original edition led off with “Months, Chronology, and Gardening” and contrast why a recent Almanac leads off with its first topic. What is the purpose behind this? What does that tell you about the purpose of the publication itself and how usage may have changed over the years?

   **NOTE:** The length and depth required for this activity will be determined by the teacher as appropriate for the students’ age and skill level.
3. **CENSUS STATISTICS:** Using the Texas Almanac Archive, students will go through the census data and other information given for the county in which you live, going as far back as your county can be found in the Almanac.

Create a chart or graph detailing population statistics as best you can with the given information and considering the gaps between some editions. Keep in mind that census data is only taken every 10 years, so your information should reflect the same as much as possible.

Include with your chart an explanation of some of the changes in the way information is provided and possible reasons why: i.e., reporting demographic information in percentages, rather than exact numbers.

4. **OTHER DATA THROUGH TIME (OBJECTIVE):** Using the Texas Almanac Archive, choose a topic that can be objectively measured, such as production of a specific crop. Look at the same crop at decade intervals (as much as possible) and chart how production of that crop has changed.

Describe what factors may have influenced changes in the statistics, such as inflation or drought, and include an explanation of how those and other factors may have had an effect.

5. **OTHER DATA THROUGH TIME (SUBJECTIVE):** Have students choose a topic that can be subjectively measured, such as:

- advertisements
- endorsements
- references to political parties

Choose at least five different editions of the Texas Almanac, spaced as evenly as possible, and evaluate similarities or differences shown through these primary sources.
TEXAS ALMANAC 1857

INDEX OF CONTENTS.

- Months, Chronology and Gardening, 5
- Area and Boundaries of the Republic of Texas, - 3 to 9
- Lands Deeded by the Government of Texas, - 34 " 36
- With Commissioner’s Reports Condensed, 87 " 38
- Total Land Claims Issued by Texas, - 87 " 38
- Grants of Land under Mexico, Grants, &c., - 39 " 40
- Outstanding Certificates, Laws Quoting Titles, &c., - 48 " 49
- Statistics of all the Counties in Texas, - 59 " 65
- Increase of Negroes, Cattle, &c., from 1850 to 1856, - 69 " 72
- Taxable Property, Revenues and Expenditures, - 75 " 75
- Synopsis of Texas Railroad Charters, - 79 " 87
- District Courts of the State, with the Counties, - 87 " 92
- Judges, Clerks, and Terms of each, - 92 " 98
- County Officers of all the Counties in the State, - 98 " 94
- Statistics of the State Penitentiary, - 97 " 100
- Taxable Property of Texas in 1848 and 1849, - 100
- Statistics of Galveston and Harris Counties compared, - 101
- Sale of Custom-House Property, - 102
- United States District Court for Texas, - 103
- Expenses of State Government for ten years, ending 1856, - 104
- Licensed Texas for 1854 and 1855 compared, - 105
- Agricultural Products, &c., of the State for 1848, - 106
- Principal Articles of Taxation for the past ten years, - 106
- Foreign Consuls and Commercial Agents in Texas, - 106
- Forms for the Execution and Authentication of Deeds, - 107
- Form for the Deposition of Witnesses, &c., - 108
- Laws for the Collection of Debts, - 110 " 111
- Exemption and Homestead Laws of all the States, - 110 " 111
- Legal Rates of Interest of all the States, - 112 " 114
- Table, showing the number of days from any - 114
- day to any other day of another month, - 115
- Law Regulating Marital Rights, - 116
- Exports of Galveston for the last five years, - 122
- Shipping and Tonnage of Galveston, - 122
- Business on the Commerce of Texas, - 123
- Cotton Crop of the United States from ‘54 to ‘56 inclusive, - 124
- United States Census for Texas, in 1850, - 125 " 126
- Receipts and Expenditures of the United States - 126
- for the year ending June 30, 1856, - 129
- Latitude and Longitude of certain places in Texas, - 129
- English and Mexican Menaures compared, - 130
- Biography of Branch T. Archer, - 131
- " Judge David G. Burnet, " 131
- " Benj. R. Milam, " 135
- " Dear Smith, " 136
- " James Bowie, " 137
- " Capt. Randall Jones, " 137
- Receipts and Expenditures of Texas, - 138
- for the year ending Oct. 31st, 1855, - 139
- Common School Law of 1854 and 1855, - 140
- Common School Law of 1856, - 140 " 141
- School Money in Treasury, August 31st, 1855, - 141
- Compendium of the Early History of Texas, - 142 " 143
- School Lands, - 53 to 55
- Emancipation of Slaves, 53 " 55
- Lands returned to the State, 47 " 48
- Petition to St. Stephen F. Austin, - 50 " 51
- State Debt, &c., - 74 " 75
- The State Debt as Sealed, - 76 " 78
- Domestic Debt, - 79
- State Officers at the Capitol, - 87
- Population of Texas, - 108 " 109
- Limitation Law of Texas, - 113
- Law of Attachments, - 114
- Act Concerning Wills, - 115
- License Laws, - 117
- Tax Laws, - 117 " 119
- Commerce of Galveston, - 120
- Cotton Trade of Texas, - 121
- Newspapers of Texas, - 127
- List of Post-offices, - 30 " 32