

The State Fair of
TEXAS
Curriculum

BIG TEX
GRADE 5 SOCIAL STUDIES

CELEBRATING SYMBOLS:
BIG TEX & LADY LIBERTY UNITE





Celebrating Symbols Big Tex & Lady Liberty Unite

In this lesson students will:

- ★ Explain the significance of important symbols and landmarks that represent American and Texan beliefs and principles.
- ★ Compare and contrast important symbols and landmarks that contribute to our national and state identity.
- ★ Create their own design for a patriotic statue.

When two historic icons unite, magic happens! As an American and a Texan, you will explore how symbols influence our patriotism, citizenship, and loyalty to a nation or a state.

Standards

- ★ Social Studies TEKS: 5.17(E), 5.24(B)
- ★ ELAR TEKS: 5.RC(F)
- ★ Art TEKS: 5.1(A), 5.2(B), 5.3(A)

Before You Go

In class, explore the symbolic importance of two important icons:

- ★ Draw a blank circle map and instruct the students to brainstorm as many words as possible when thinking about the word, “symbol”. Encourage them to think of both national and state symbols that represent their state and country.
- ★ Explain that the students will be comparing and contrasting two well-known icons that represent both America and Texas.
- ★ Show the students these short video clips about the history of the **Statue of Liberty** (often referred to as Lady Liberty) and **Big Tex**. Have the children take notes as they watch, using a Double Bubble Map like the one at the end of this lesson. Pay close attention to the details in each of the statues:
 - * What colors do you see?
 - * What kinds of clothes is he/she wearing?
 - * What symbols do you see on his/her clothing?
 - * What are his/her hands doing?
 - * Are there other items included in the sculpture? Why?



TEACHER

BIG TEX



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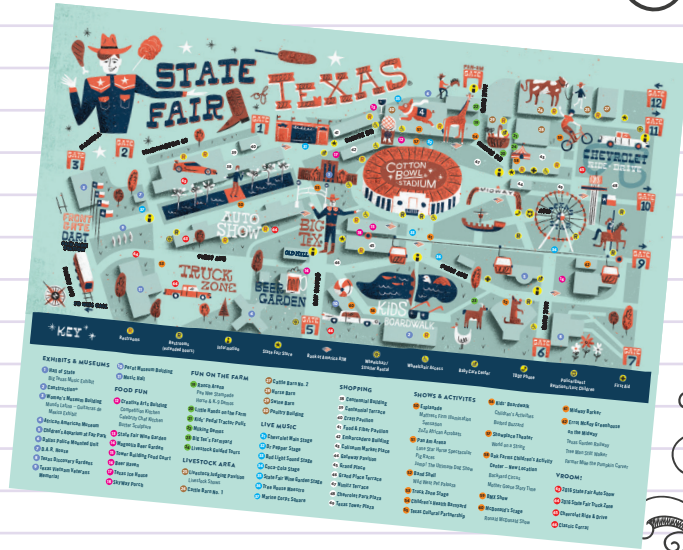
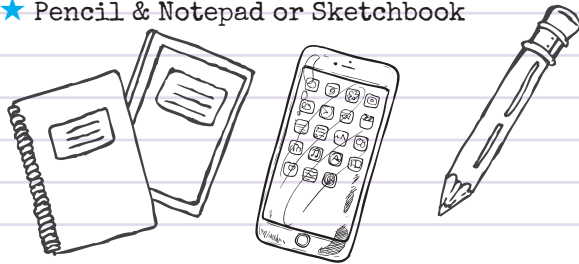
Plan Your Route.

★ Go directly to Big Tex Circle.



Optional Materials to Bring

- ★ Smart Phone or Tablet
- ★ Pencil & Notepad or Sketchbook



While You're There

The objective of your visit is to observe Big Tex, explore patriotic symbols, and question how important landmarks impact citizens. While you are viewing Big Tex, be sure to think about how this famous Texas icon compares to Lady Liberty.

THINGS TO DO

- ★ Listen closely to the comments made by fellow fairgoers.
- Notice if visitors compare Big Tex to other national or state symbols.
- Snap a photo of Big Tex, and think about a caption you would write that summarizes his size, stature, and character.
- ★ **TEACHABLE MOMENT: What's a caption?**
- Compare and contrast your knowledge of the Statue of Liberty to what you observe at the Fair.

AS YOU EXPLORE

- ★ Ponder the following questions as you observe and explore:
 - Why do we build statues to represent our beliefs, cultures, and values?
 - Does the size of the landmark matter?
 - Why do nations and states build such large structures?
 - Is the gender of the symbol significant?
 - How does gender impact the connections between the individual and the idea the symbol represents?

- ★ Pay attention to all of the features on Big Tex, just as you did with the Statue of Liberty and Big Tex in class.
 - What colors do you see?
 - What kinds of clothes is he wearing? What symbols do you see on his clothing?
 - What are his hands doing?
 - Are there things that you notice, seeing the statue in real life as opposed to on video? If so, what?



Celebrating Symbols Big Tex & Lady Liberty Unite

After the Fair

When you return to class following your State Fair visit, you will:

- ★ Add additional details to your Double Bubble Map.
- ★ Use iMovie to create a video comparing and contrasting Big Tex to the Statue of Liberty. You will explain the significance of patriotic symbols and include details about your experience at the Fair.



Arts Connection:

Design Your Own Patriotic Texas Symbol!

Refer back to the notes you took on the Statue of Liberty and Big Tex. Think about all of the different things that you noticed on each of these statues:

- ★ Size
- ★ Color
- ★ Clothing
- ★ Symbols on their clothing/body
- ★ Hand placement
- ★ Items placed on/around the statues

Using your own creativity, invent your own design for a patriotic statue.

- ★ This could be done in any medium you want, such as colored pencil, paint, pen and ink, clay, etc. Keep in mind, however, that you will want your viewer to be able to see the details in your design. Sometimes that can be hard to do with paint.
- ★ As you create your design, think about what you want people to think of when they look at your statue.
- ★ What kinds of things could you add to help the viewer understand that this is a patriotic statue?
 - * Have fun with this, and present your design to the class when you are finished.



TEACHER

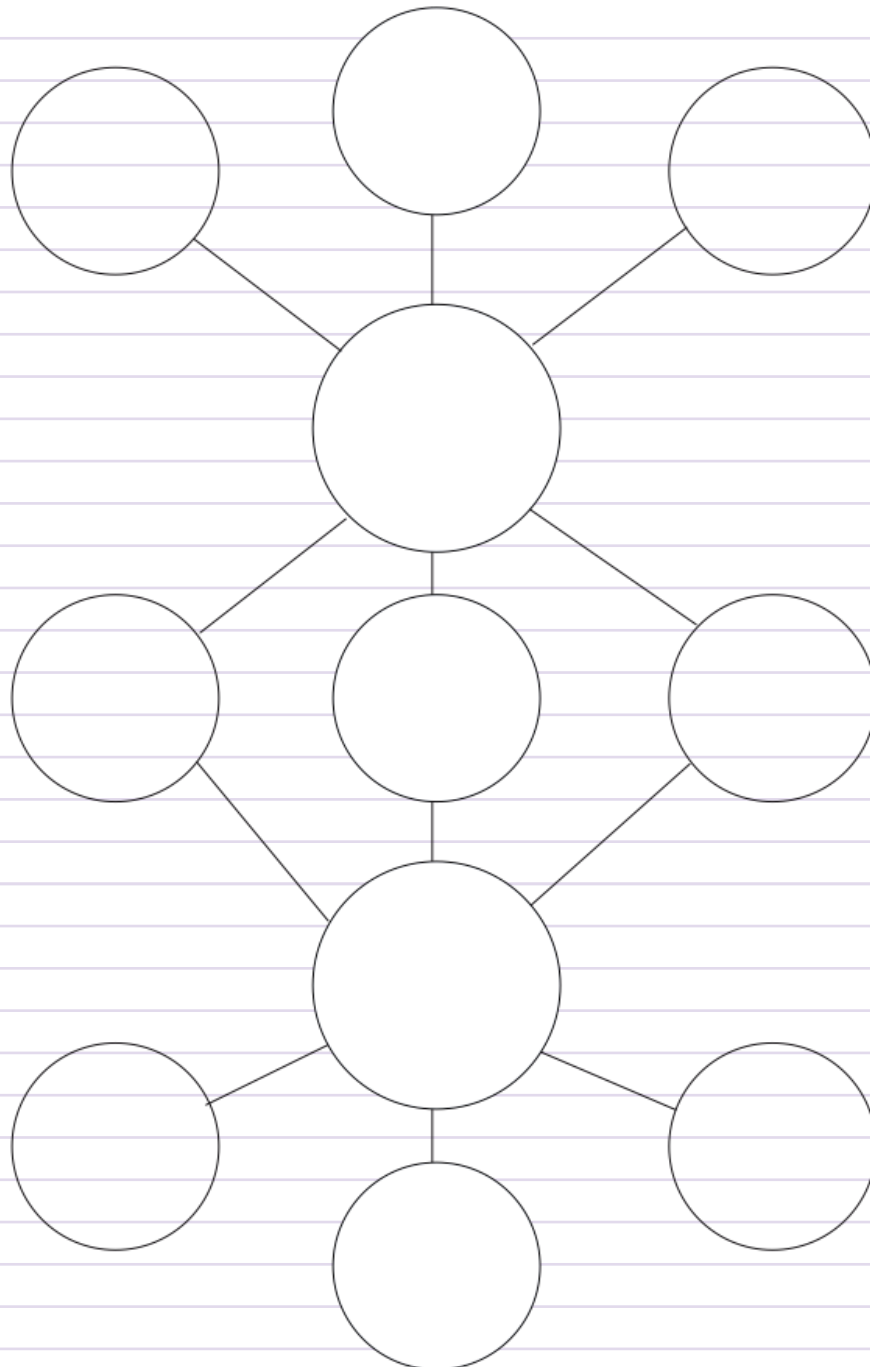
BIG TEX



Celebrating Symbols
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Name _____

Double Bubble Map



Double Bubble Map for Comparing Similarities and Contrasting Differences