

*The State Fair of*  
**TEXAS**  
*Curriculum*

**BIG TEX**  
**GRADE 6 SOCIAL STUDIES**

GPS: THE MODERN LATITUDE & LONGITUDE  
HOW MIGRATION INFLUENCES REGIONAL CHARACTER



# TEACHER

# BIG TEX



## GPS: The Modern Latitude & Longitude How Migration Influences Regional Character

### In this lesson students will:

- ★ Locate contemporary societies on maps using latitude and longitude.
- ★ Explain how human migration influences the character of places and regions.
- ★ Create a collage that captures the character of Texas using ephemeral items from The State Fair.

In a modern world, absolute location is determined by following a little blue dot on our smart phones. However, for many years, mapmakers used lines of latitude and longitude to pinpoint specific locations on Earth. Big Tex can be found at a specific line of latitude and longitude, and his character shines brightly throughout the fairgrounds and across the great state of Texas.

### Standards

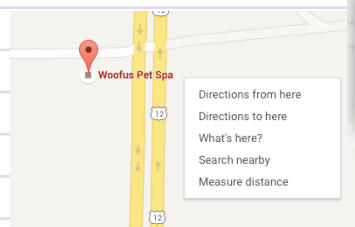
- ★ Social Studies TEKS: 6.4(A), 6.4(C)
- ★ ELAR TEKS: 6.27
- ★ Art TEKS: 6.1(A), 6.2(A), 6.4(B)



### Before You Go

GPS: The Modern Latitude & Longitude

- ★ Explain that GPS became mainstream around 1995.
- ★ Up until this point, most Americans used maps to locate places on Earth.
- ★ Briefly explain how world explorers used latitude/longitude lines to pinpoint locations.
  - \* Show a [1-minute Powtoons video](#) explaining how this system works.
- ★ Show students [how to find latitude and longitude using Google Maps](#).
- \* Let the students use this feature to find the coordinates of the State Fair of Texas. Ask the kids to think about how people would locate these coordinates if the Internet were to be permanently disabled.



Woofus Pet Spa

11053 Kings Corner Rd  
North Freedom, WI 53951  
43.378192, -89.768793

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# BIG TEX



## GPS: The Modern Latitude & Longitude How Migration Influences Regional Character

“...It'll Build Character!”

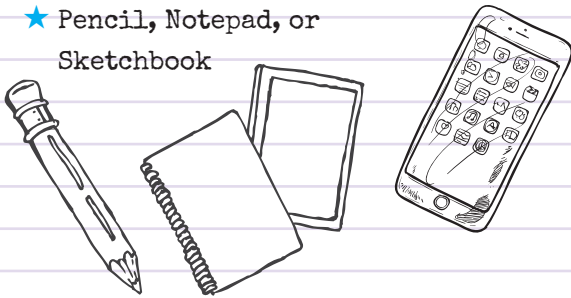
- ★ Discuss how the migration of Mexican vaqueros and other pioneers influenced the character and culture of our great state.

### 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 objectives of your visit are to locate the exact coordinates of Big Tex and collect artifacts that represent the Texas character.

#### THINGS TO DO

- Use **Google** to pinpoint the exact coordinates where Big Tex is standing.
- Observe Big Tex's stature, attire, and countenance.
- ★ **TEACHABLE MOMENT: What do stature, attire, and countenance mean?**
- Collect artifacts such as flyers, pamphlets, signs, or art that capture the character of The Texas State Fair.

#### QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- Ponder the following questions as you observe and explore.
- Why do visitors associate Texas with cowboy culture?
- What shaped the character of the Lone Star State?
- Are stereotypes related to geography?
- Why is it important to determine the exact location of specific landmarks?

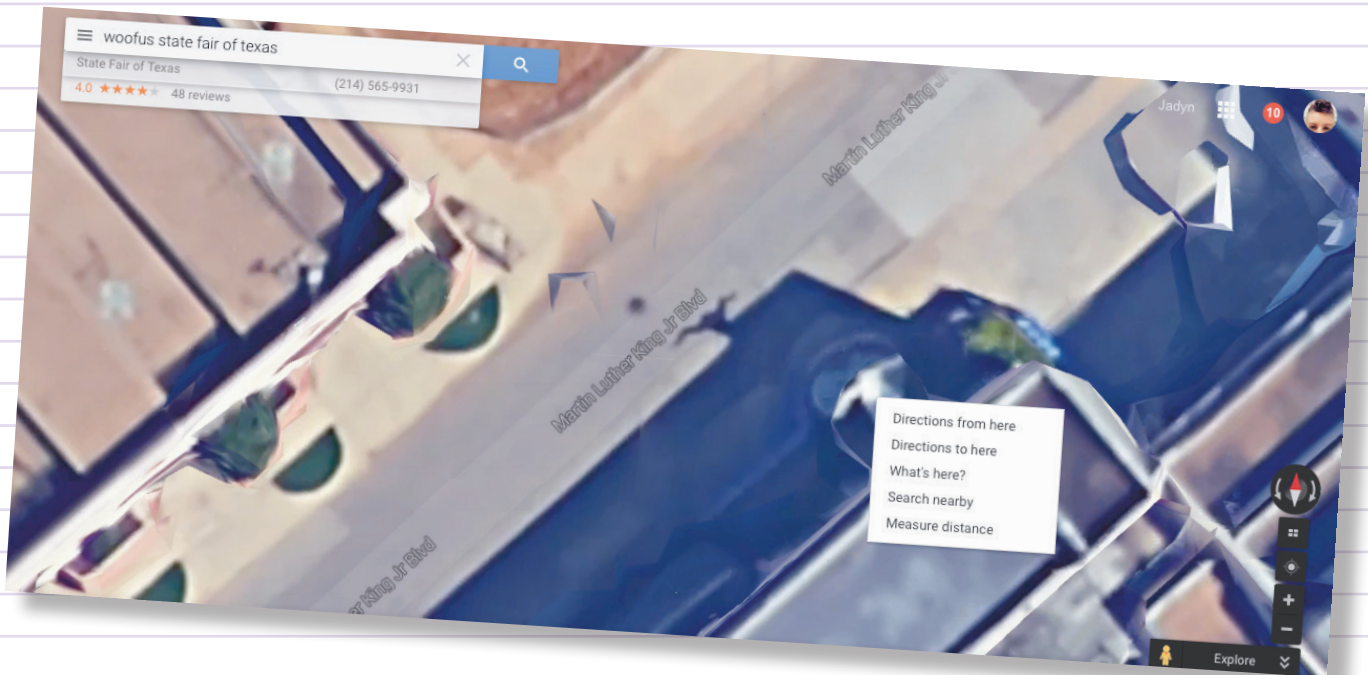


## GPS: The Modern Latitude & Longitude How Migration Influences Regional Character

### After the Fair

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

- ★ Use ephemeral items such as ticket stubs, napkins, receipts, or printed snapshots to create a collage that represents the character of the Texas State Fair.
- ★ Write a caption for your work of art, and include the latitude and longitude coordinates of your favorite stop.



In this rare capture from Google Maps, you can see the shadow of the Woofus, and the name of the Chief Editor of the State Fair of Texas Curriculum Project.