

The State Fair of
TEXAS
Curriculum

LIVESTOCK & AGRICULTURE
GRADE 4 SOCIAL STUDIES

AN AMAZING RACE!

FROM LOCAL FARMS TO TEXAS TABLES





An Amazing Race! From Local Farms to Texas Tables

In this lesson students will:

- ★ Explore the relationship between producers and consumers.
- ★ Create a visual representation of the plants and animals produced in various regions of Texas .
- ★ Study scientific advancements in the process of getting food from the farm to the table.

Do you ever wonder where the meat on your plate originated? Could it possibly have been raised on a nearby farm or dairy?



Standards

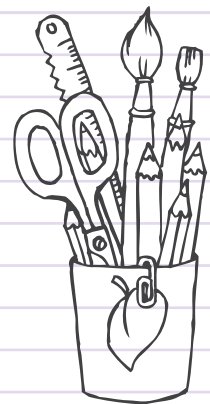
- ★ Social Studies TEKS: 4.7(A), 4.12(A), 4.20(B)
- ★ ELAR TEKS: 4.11(A), 4.14(B)
- ★ Art TEKS: 4.1(A), 4.3(A), 4.2(B)



Before You Go

Prior to visiting the Texas State Fair, students should be given the opportunity to learn about the various types of agriculture and livestock found throughout Texas.

- ★ With a partner, students will read, analyze, and interpret industry trends presented in [this infographic](#) provided by Texas Wide Open for Business.
- ★ Draw conclusions about which regions of the state produce the most agricultural output per square mile.
- ★ To build anticipation for their fair visit, let the students know they will be creating an “Amazing Race” style scavenger hunt in which they will locate and document the connection between Texas foods and livestock found in each region of the state.



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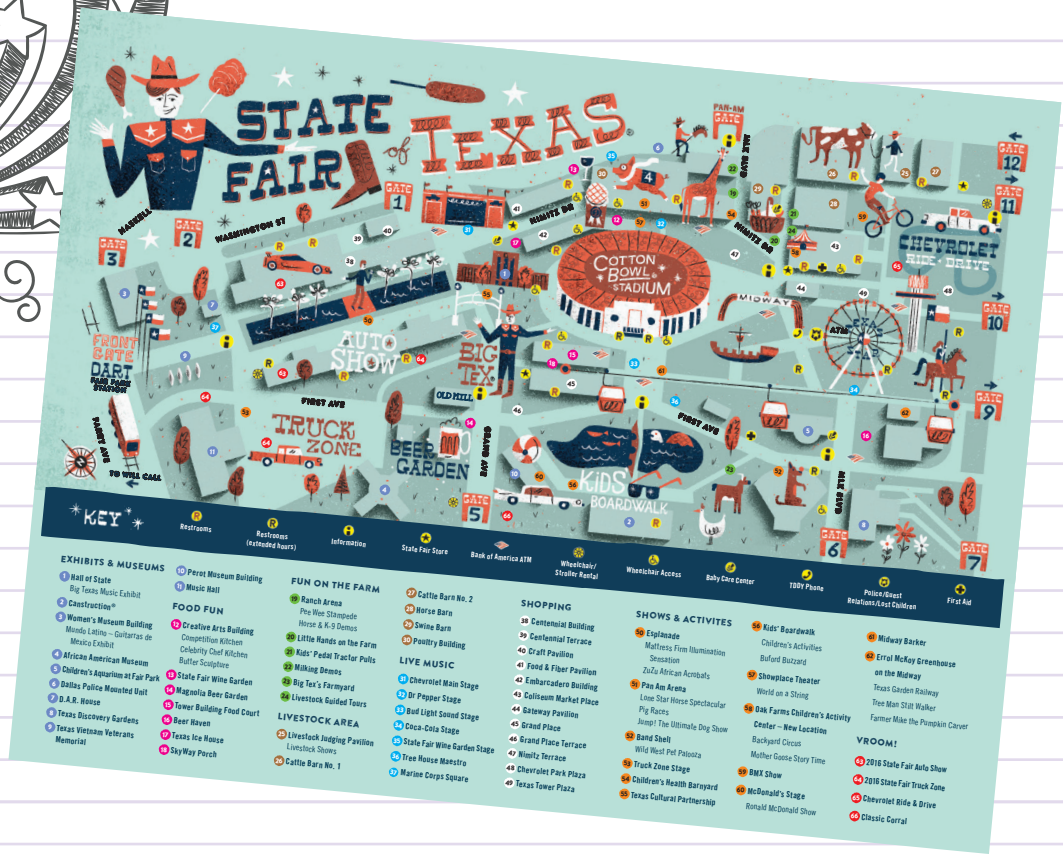


An Amazing Race! From Local Farms to Texas Tables

Plan Your Route.

From Big Tex, turn and walk up International Blvd.

- ★ Pass the Hall of State, then turn right.
- ★ You'll find the Food & Fiber Pavilion between Washington and Nimitz Dr, across from the Embarcadero Building.

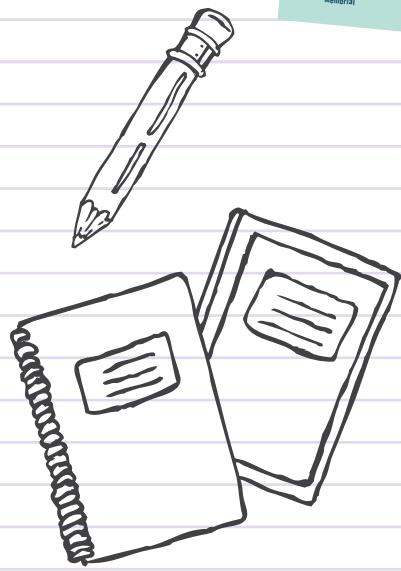


KEY	
Restrooms	Restrooms (extended hours)
Information	State Fair Store
Back of America ATM	Wheelchair/ Stroller Rental
Wheelchair Access	Baby Care Center
TDSP Photo	Police/First Aid
Police/First Aid	First Aid

EXHIBITS & MUSEUMS	FOOD FUN	FUN ON THE FARM	LIVE MUSIC	SHOPPING	SHOWS & ACTIVITIES	
1 Hall of State Big Texas Music Exhibit 2 Construction* 3 Women's Museum Building Mexico Lobby - Cortarras de Mexico Exhibit 4 African American Museum 5 Dallas Police Mounted Unit 6 D.A.S. House 7 Texas Discovery Gardens 8 Texas Veterans Memorial	9 Creative Arts Building Competition Kitchen Celebrity Chef Kitchen Butter Sculpture 10 State Fair Wine Garden 11 Magnolia Beer Garden 12 Tower Building Food Court 13 Beer Haven 14 Texas Ice House 15 SkyWay Porch	16 Ranch Area Paw Paw Stampede Horse & K-5 Demos 17 Little Hands on the Farm 18 Kids' Paddle Tractor Pulls 19 Milk and Demos 20 Big Tex's Farmyard 21 Livestock Guided Tours	22 Chevrolet Main Stage 23 Dr Pepper Stage 24 Bull Light Sound Stage 25 Doca-Caja Stage 26 State Fair Wine Garden Stage 27 Tree House Maestro 28 Marine Corps Square	29 Cattle Barn No. 2 30 Horse Barn 31 Swine Barn 32 Poetry Building 33 Centennial Building 34 Centennial Terrace 35 Craft Pavilion 36 Food & Fiber Pavilion 37 Embarcadero Building 38 Eastman Market Place 39 Eastman Pavilion 40 Grand Place 41 Grand Place Terrace 42 Nimitz Terrace 43 Chevrolet Park Plaza 44 Texas Tower Plaza	45 EquiMade Matters Film Illumination Sensation ZuZu African Acrobats 46 Pan Am Arena Line Star Horse Spectacular Pig Races Jump! The Ultimate Dog Show 47 Band Shell Wild West Pet Palooza 48 Truck Zone Stage 49 Children's Health Bartyard 50 Texas Cultural Partnership 51 Kids' Boardwalk Children's Activities Bufford Buzzard 52 Showplace Theater World on a String 53 Oak Farms Children's Activity Center - New Location Backyard Circus Mother Goose Story Time 54 FMX Show 55 McDonald's Stage 56 Ronald McDonald Show 57 Midway Barker 58 Errol McKay Greenhouse on the Midway Texas Garden Railway Tree Man Stix Walker Farmer Mike the Pumpkin Chover	59 2016 State Fair Auto Show 60 2016 State Fair Truck Zone 61 Chevrolet Ride & Drive 62 Classic Corral

Optional Materials to Bring

- ★ Smart Phone, Tablet
- ★ Pencil & Notepad (or Sketchpad for Arts Connection)
- ★ Digital or Paper Copy of [Regions of Texas Map](#)



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While You're There

The goal of the Amazing Race challenge is to collect photos of food that relate to Texas livestock and agriculture. You may also want to sketch the animals and products you see, to prepare for the Art activity.

While you are in the Food & Fiber Pavilion, take snapshots of some of the items you see.



FOOD

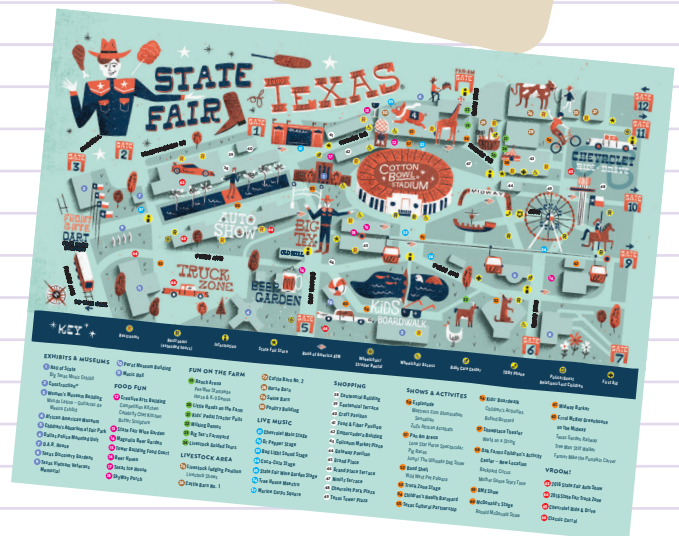
- In which part of the state was this food grown and produced? (You may need to do a little research on your smartphone!)
- Helpful links:
Infographic
<http://gov.texas.gov/files/ecodev/profileagriculture.pdf>

PRODUCTS

- Think about how the items arrived at the State Fair.
- What process did they have to go through before they were put on display and sold here?
- Where were they shipped from?
- How many days or hours did it take for the products to get to the fairgrounds, based on where they came from?

Plan Your Route.

- Your second stop will be the Livestock Barns on Martin Luther King Blvd.



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While You're There



ANIMALS

- Go to the Livestock Barns and take photographs of Texas animals.
- Is there a connection between the products in the Food & Fiber Pavilion and the animals in the Livestock Barns? Why?
- Which types of animals do you see most in the barns? Why?

SIGHTS/SOUNDS

- Take your time and really think about all the sights and sounds.
- Consider how the livestock you see gets from the farm where it is raised to your dinner table.
- Think about the process, and be prepared to develop a diagram or visual representation.



After the Fair

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

- ★ Work with a group to write clues for an Amazing Race Challenge.
 - * Your clues should include information about livestock found in each Texas region as well as food and fibers produced in the area.
 - * The challenge you design will be shared with another class.
 - * Groups will complete a virtual Amazing Race using [Google Maps](#) & [Google Earth](#).
- ★ Along with the challenge, you will design a [Thinglink](#) demonstrating how food goes from the farm to the table.
- ★ If you have limited access to technology, you may design a physical race instead. Use your imagination!



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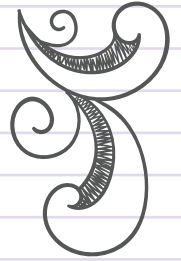


An Amazing Race!

Arts Connection: Narrative in Art

In this lesson students will:

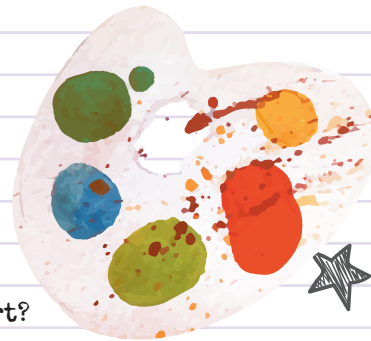
- ★ Identify narrative in art, particularly in the artwork of Norman Rockwell.
- ★ Discuss how to look at clues in art (i.e. title, characters, objects involved).
- ★ Make educated guesses about the narrative that the artist is conveying.
- ★ Create their own narrative in art, based on the farm-to-table movement they will learn about at the fair and their new knowledge from this lesson.



Before You Go

Prior to visiting the Texas State Fair, begin a discussion about narrative art with your students.

- * What is a narrative?
- * How do some artists use narrative in their artwork?
- * Can you think of a way to tell a story with a piece of art?



One example to share with your students might be the work of Norman Rockwell. He was known for his masterful talents and for presenting stories through his art. His “narrative” paintings were even printed in the *Saturday Evening Post* and other mass circulation magazines because they resonated with the public. Show the students some examples of Norman Rockwell’s work and ask them to talk about the story that they feel is being told in the artwork. After they have guessed, tell them the title of the work you are discussing. A great website to visit is <http://www.nrm.org/>. Ask questions such as:

- * What about this art makes you see that story, or narrative?
- * What more could the artist do to further tell the story that you see?
- * How did the title make you see the story differently, or the same?
- * What would you do differently?



Talk to the students about how they will visit the Food and Fiber Pavilion, as well as the Livestock Barns at the Fair. As they learn about the livestock and the origins of their food, tell them to think about how they might tell that story in a work of art.

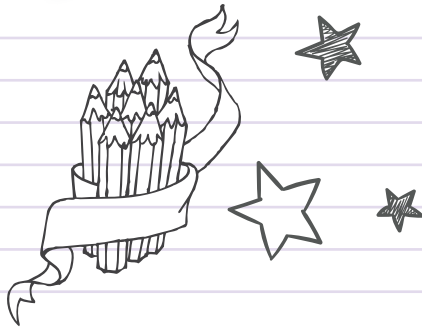


An Amazing Race!

Arts Connection: Narrative in Art

After the Fair

When you return to the classroom, have the students take out their notes, sketches, and/or photos from the fair. Revisit the work of Norman Rockwell and the way that he used images to tell a story, or narrative, in his artwork. Also, remind them of how he titled his paintings to give the reader a strong hint as to what was happening in the scene. Have the students do the same with their new knowledge of the food journey from the farm to the table. Give the students questions to think about as they get ready to create their artwork, such as:



- * What are the most important parts of the story?
- * What images could you use to tell this story?
- * Think about the title that you choose - How will that help?
- * If I showed this to someone who had no idea of the origins of their food, would they be able to understand the story in my work?

The medium used for this project is the teacher's choice. Before embarking on their main project, have the students sketch their plans so they think through the process, before diving in. When they have finished with their projects, invite other classes to come in and guess the story or narrative in the artworks. Reveal the titles after the other students have guessed the stories.

