



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

**THE MIDWAY & GAMES**  
**GRADE 5 SOCIAL STUDIES**

CARNIVAL CHALLENGE!

YOUTH ACTION RESEARCH & THE PROBLEM-SOLVING PROCESS



# STUDENT EDITION

## The Midway & Games



## Carnival Challenge! Youth Action Research & The Problem-Solving Process



### Plan Your Route

- ★ Head to the Midway in the center of the Fairgrounds.

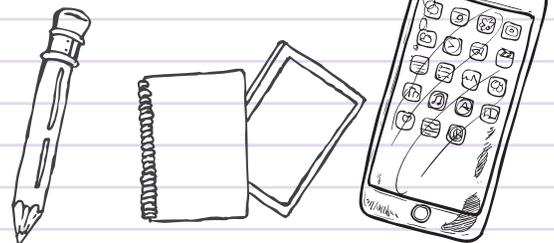
### Recap

- ★ Recall that the term “midway” originated during the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, and refers to the amusement area including carnival rides, games, and other attractions.
- ★ Visit this [website](#) to see midways from fairs across the country.
- ★ Remember that, for this project, you are participating in Youth Action Research. Action Research is research conducted by a group of people who want to make a positive change in their community.



### Optional Materials to Bring

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



### While You're There

You will use information you gather at the State Fair to help you with this project:

#### Plan Your Own School Carnival!

The objective of your visit is to gather information about a carnival atmosphere by playing games, winning prizes, and experiencing the thrill of amusement park rides, and then bringing this information back, so you can plan the carnival with your class.

# STUDENT EDITION



## Carnival Challenge! Youth Action Research & The Problem-Solving Process



### EXPERIENCING THE MIDWAY

- As you walk through the Midway, pay close attention to your surroundings.
- Choose at least three games to play or observe others playing.
- Make note of cost and possible prizes you could win.
- Notice all the marketing techniques used by each vendor.
- Take a spin on several different rides.
- Consider how you could create similar thrill experiences.
- Write down a few notes about your experiences to share with your team.
- Pay attention to how the different rides and games look.
- What is it about them that makes them visually appealing?

### BREAKING DOWN YOUR EXPERIENCE

- Find a place to sit where you can ponder the following questions, as you continue to observe.
- How can your team create a Midway similar to this one, at your school carnival?
- What materials will you need to design games, rides, and prizes?
- What is it that's attracting people to the rides and games?
- How can you make your rides and games eye-catching?
- Why are entertainment venues full of lights, noise, and crowds?



### My Notes on the Midway:

### Back at School

When you return to class following your State Fair visit, you will work on your project. See your teachers for more information.