

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

**FAIR FOOD**  
**GRADE 8 SOCIAL STUDIES**

ICONIC EDIBLES

LIGHTS...CAMERA...ACTION!





## Iconic Edibles

## Lights...Camera...Action!



### In this lesson students will:

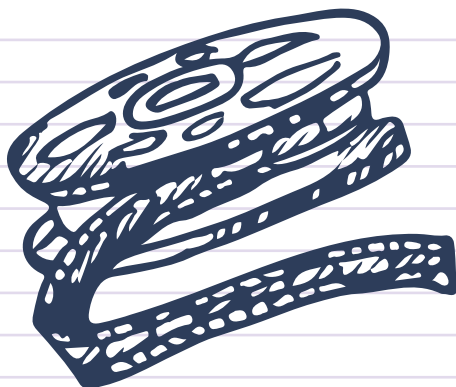
- ★ Document and record information about unique foods at the State Fair of Texas.
- ★ Analyze the contributions of various racial and ethnic groups to our national identity.
- ★ Describe developments in the culinary arts that are unique to American culture.
- ★ Write, produce, and star in a documentary about iconic edibles found at the Texas State Fair.



Join us on a journey to stardom as you prepare to produce your very own "foodie" documentary. In this activity, you'll travel around the State Fair of Texas and gather information about iconic edibles consumed by hungry fairgoers. Learn about the famous Fletcher's corny dog, and analyze the contributions of culinary artists from various backgrounds. You will be the screenwriter, producer, and star of your own reality TV show as you describe how the culinary arts have influenced American culture.

### Standards

- ★ Social Studies TEKS: 8.23(D), 8.26(A), 8.30(D)
- ★ ELAR TEKS: 8.13(A) 8.13(B), 8.14
- ★ Art TEKS: 8.1(A), 8.2(B), 8.2(C), 8.4(B)





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### Before You Go

To pique student interest and provide background knowledge:

- ★ Show this [5 minute video of Larry the Cable Guy](#) documenting the history of Fletcher's Famous Corny Dogs sold at the Texas State Fair.
- \* Tell the students they will choose a specific vendor at the Texas State Fair and create a similar video describing developments in culinary arts that are unique to American culture.
- \* People from various racial and ethnic backgrounds attend the Texas State Fair, hoping to sink their teeth into delectable foods that represent their individual culture.
- \* As screenwriters and producers, the students must find vendors and food items that exemplify our national identity.
- ★ Prior to their Fair visit, students should spend adequate time studying former [Big Tex Choice Award Winners](#) and researching various food vendors located throughout Fair Park.



### Plan Your Route.

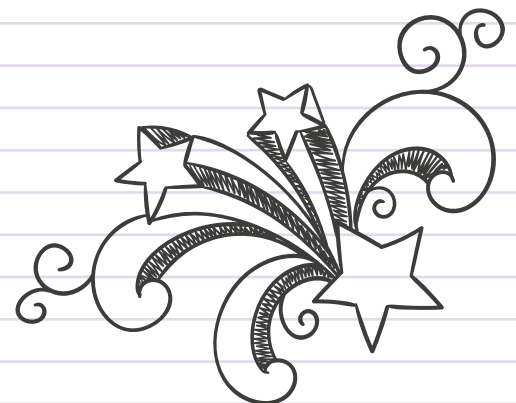
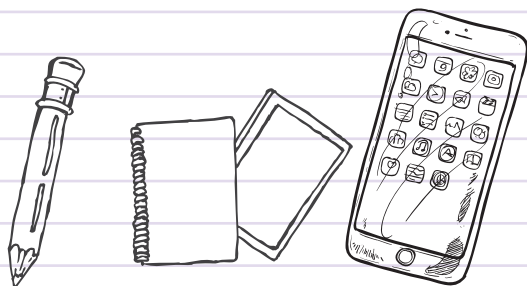
- ★ Food stands are scattered throughout the State Fair of Texas.
- ★ Make your way through the fairgrounds, observing the different foods.

### Optional Materials to Bring

- ★ Smart Phone or Tablet
- ★ Pencil & Notepad
- ★ Sketchbook for Arts Connection

### While You're There

The objective of your visit is to gather information about culinary artists and famous fair foods unique to American culture.





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### FAIR FOODS

- As you walk through the Fairgrounds, stop at your chosen vendors, and observe their work in action.
- Purchase and eat the food sold by your chosen vendor.
- Take photographs of your food before eating it.
- Think about various cultures that may have influenced the creation of the item you purchased.
- Pay attention to the purchases made by fellow fair goers.
- Are certain items more popular than others? Why?
- Be mindful of the cultural influences represented by the food you've selected.
- Jot down a few notes about your experiences.
- Note any special facts about your chosen food, including ingredients, ethnic background, and nutritional information.

### INTERVIEW WITH A VENDOR

- Interview your chosen vendor and other Fair guests, documenting your experience in real-time, through video.
- Ask the concessionaires to explain the process of creating the food item you consumed.
- Talk with folks standing in line, capturing snippets you can use for your documentary.
- Poll other fair goers about the food item you've selected, and ask if they think it deserves to win the Big Tex Choice Awards.
- Jot down notes about your experience.

### ARTS CONNECTION

- ★ Now that you've had time to eat and speak with people:
- Write a well-crafted caption to go with your food photo, that captures your experience.
- Film the step-by-step process the food goes through, from ingredients to final product.
- Take a look at the decorations at the booths. Write down anything you think is important.
- ★ Do the decorations reflect the kind of food the vendors serve?
- ★ What about colors?
- ★ Write down or sketch anything you want to remember for later.





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### DIGEST

- ★ Find a place to sit, so you can think, write and observe.
  - Why would others want to learn about this particular fair food?
  - Just because something is edible, does it mean I should eat it?
  - How do documentaries help consumers make wise choices?
  - Is food a form of entertainment?
  - Are the culinary arts as important as monumental art? Why or why not?
- TEACHABLE MOMENT: What is monumental art?
- How will you engage viewers with humor, wit, and videography tricks?

### After the Fair

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

- ★ Watch [Episode 1: If You Fry It They Will Come](#) to spark creativity and see a good example of a quality documentary.
- ★ Start working on your documentary!
  - \* Write a brief script of clips, photos, and text you want to include in your documentary.
  - \* Using iMovie, Windows Movie Maker, or similar technology, begin the video creation and editing process.
  - \* Revise, edit, and publish your film.
  - \* Then, present your final product to your class!
  - \* Teachers, make sure you allow time for honest critique by fellow students.

### Arts Connection: Cultural Connection

It's time to celebrate your culture!

- ★ Design your own food booth and fair food, based on your culture and background.
  - \* Think about the different decorations you saw on the various food booths at the Fair (refer to your notes).
    - Did they reflect the food they served? How?
    - How were the colors displayed on the booths?
    - How did they capture the fair goers' attention?
- ★ Sketch a design for your own booth.
  - \* Let your creativity fly with this - don't hold back!
  - \* Try building a mock-up of your design using a small box, such as a shoebox.





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- ★ If that is not an option, you can simply draw your plan.
- ★ When your design is finished, focus on your food.
  - \* What will you offer your customers?
  - \* Do some research on your own cultural background.
    - Are there foods that are unique to your culture?
    - What about your family traditions?
    - Are there foods that are special to you and your family?
  - \* You could serve one main food, or perhaps an assortment of two or three.
  - \* It's ONE booth, not a whole restaurant; don't go overboard with your options.
- ★ When you are finished, present your designs and fair food to your classmates.
  - \* Do any classmates share your cultural background?
  - \* Have any of your peers never tried the food that you are offering?
  - \* As an added bonus, ask your teacher if you could have a potluck on the day of your presentations.
- ★ Everyone can bring foods so classmates can have a taste of everybody's unique creations!

