

Why *did* I choose this ride?!

Sociology on the Midway

GAMERS

QUEST 5 SOCIOLOGY

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS CURRICULUM

STUDENT EDITION

Recap
You will be going on a Quest at the State Fair of Texas to find evidence of Sociology among your fellow fairgoers. You will then use that information on projects back at school!

Recall from class:

- ★ Our society has changed; rural farming has been replaced by industrialization and now become more service oriented.
- ★ Collective behavior, social movements and modernization have contributed to this change.
- ★ Remember the discussion you had in class.
 - How have social movements contributed to our changing society?
 - Has new technology contributed to this change?
 - How many of you use technology on a daily basis?
 - Can you imagine a world without cell phones?
 - Why are some people attracted to certain rides/games, and not others?
 - Do you have some rides/games you know you want to visit today? Have you thought about why you want to visit them?



<http://photographyblog.dallasnews.com/files/2012/10/statefairvweb.jpg>



Plan Your Route

- ★ Start your Quest at Big Tex and go into the Midway.
- ★ Circle around to the left as you explore.
- ★ You'll end your Quest at the Texas Star.



Optional Materials to Bring

- ★ Pen or Pencil
- ★ Notebook or Paper
- ★ Smartphone or Tablet

STATE FAIR MAP



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While You're There

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

1. Gather information about rides and games fairgoers choose (or don't choose), to create a foldable presentation about it back at school
2. Design a Midway experience based on resisting expectations and that reflects today's social issues
3. Write a poem about three interesting fairgoers

The objective of your visit is to observe collective behavior and determine why people choose certain games or rides in the Midway.

Why Did I Choose This Ride?

★**BIG TEX:** As you walk by Big Tex, take a minute to observe his clothes, his voice, and people's response to him when he speaks.

★**THE MIDWAY:** Walking into the Midway, look for the longest line or the biggest crowd and study the game people are gathered around. Repeat this for at least two games.

- o Take a look at the presentation of the game and what the game consists of.
- o If you can, ask one of the fairgoers why they wanted to play that game.
- o Observe what the game operator is wearing and what he or she says to lure people to play the game.

★**THE RIDES:** As you circle to the left, you will come to the rides. Just as you did for the games, look for the longest line or the biggest crowd and study the ride people are drawn to. Repeat this for at least two rides.

- o Notice the presentation of the ride, its location, and what the ride does.
- o If you can, ask one of the riders why they were drawn to it.
- o Notice anything else that you think may have been a determining factor that brought fairgoers to that ride.

★**ARTFUL EXPECTATIONS:** To get ready for the art portion of this lesson, notice the different types of rides you see as you explore.

- o Think about what your expectations of the Midway are as you observe the rides and games around you.
- o How could you create a space where people could still play games and experience rides while becoming aware of issues facing our world today?

★**POEM EXTENSION:** As you take notes on fairgoers today, see if you can highlight THREE that you think will be great to write poems about later. *Put a star by them*



Back at School

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