

Fresh, Fried, or Citified?

How Physical and Cultural Geography Inform Food @ the Fair

FOODIES

QUEST 06 WORLD/HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS CURRICULUM

If there's one thing the State Fair of Texas is known for, it's fabulous food! From funnel cakes to roasted corn, turkey legs to fried ice cream, Foodies from across this state and around the world come to the fairgrounds to eat, drink and be merry! What may not be as clear to most fairgoers, though, is the fact that the Fair Day foods you may try not only come from far-flung places around the globe, they've also been shaped by the physical and cultural geographies of their homelands.



During this Foodie Quest, you will:

- ★ Employ details you already know about the raw ingredients in Fair foods to identify the home states or countries of each, and locate their points of origin on a topographic map.
- ★ Use a map to identify key physical geographic attributes of each these places of origin.
- ★ Extend your knowledge by identifying the role cultural geography may play - from religion to immigration - in shaping certain Fair food offerings.
- ★ Hypothesize about the impact the physical and cultural geography of these places has on these ingredients and your list of Fair foods.
- ★ Conduct a final round of Internet research to test your delicious, delectable hypotheses.



Standards

- ★ Social Studies (Geography) TEKS: 113.43 (b) (1) (A-B), (3) (A-C), (4) (A-C), (6) (A-B), (7) (A-D), (8) (A-C), (10) (A-D), 11 (A-C), (12) (A-C), (15) (A-B), (16) (A-D), (17) (A-D), (18) (1-D), (19), (A-C), (20) (A-B), (21) (A-C), (22) (A-E), (23) (A-C)
- ★ Art TEKS: Art I: 2A, 2F, 3B, 4A Art II: 2A, 2D
- ★ ELAR TEKS: E4(1)(A), E4(14)(A)
- ★ Career Development TEKS: 127.15 (c) (1) (A-I), (2) (A-C)



Before You Go (Timing: 1-2 x 45-min daily classes or 1 x 90-min block class)

- ★ Discuss the concepts of physical geography and cultural geography:
 - Make sure students have solid working definitions of each.
 - Identify several key components.
 - Analyze the roles both play in shaping consumer/government/economic behavior.
 - Discuss the role physical geography plays in driving settlement and economic decisions, and the interrelationship between physical and cultural geography.

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- ★ Find, share and discuss in small groups current news articles online that illustrate the role physical geography plays in shaping cultural and social norms and supporting decision-making processes.
- ★ Brainstorm, list, and create a poster predicting the key physical and cultural geography elements that might shape the menus of the Fair's most popular vendors.
- ★ Locate a physical topographical map, or find one online, for use in analyzing your data when you return to class after the Fair.



Invitation

- ★ As a geographically astute Foodie, you are invited on a Quest to use the State Fair of Texas as your laboratory for exploration, observing and gathering research on the physical and cultural geographic origins of many of the Fair foods we Texans love the most.



Plan Your Route

- ★ Identify and locate key Fair Food vendors at locations like the Tower Building Food Court and/or the SkyWay Porch, for example.
- ★ Research, identify, and physically mark or drop a digital pin on vendors for 8 completely different, popular Fair foods.



Optional Materials to Bring

- ★ Your "Physical and Cultural Geography Data-Collection Guide"
- ★ Pen or Pencil
- ★ Notebook or Paper
- ★ Smartphone or Tablet
- ★ A printed map of the State Fair of Texas, available online or at any gate

STATE FAIR MAP



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While You're There

The objective of your visit is to find Fair foods that represent different countries from around the world, write them down in your Data Collection Guide, put it in a safe place, and then enjoy the Fair!

Physical & Cultural Data Collection Guide

Team Members:	Class Period:
1.	3.
2.	4.

Instructions

- **FRESH, FRIED, OR CITIFIED?:** Complete this **Guide** as you explore the wild, wonderful world of our globally-inspired and sourced Fair foods.
 - Complete the questions as completely and accurately as you can.
 - You'll start by finding vendors for 8 popular but *very different* Fair foods
 - Record as many of the key ingredients for each as you can find.
 - Also identify two *similar* foods – similar, but from *different* regions of the US or world.

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Vendor & Fair Food or Beverage Item	List of ingredients from food	Likely/possible country of origin for key ingredient	Key physical and cultural attributes of likely country of origin	2 similar Fair foods from other countries/regions
1.				1. 2.
2.				1. 2.
3.				1. 2.
4.				1. 2.
5.				1. 2.
6.				1. 2.

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7.				1. 2.
8.				1. 2.

- o Once you've gathered this basic data, find a place to sit, and then discuss with friends and begin assessing your earlier, educated guesses about the geographic origins and attributes of the foods and ingredients you've explored.
- o Don't forget to take this Data Collection Guide back to class for your project!

- ★ **COMFORT FOOD (ART COMPONENT):** Think about what types of foods have been a part of your traditions throughout your life.
 - o As you make your way through all of the delicious options, look for ingredients, or whole dishes that reflect who you are in some way.
 - o Take photos of the ones that catch your attention, or if you do not have a camera, create some sketches.
 - o Think about the foods that you chose to photograph or draw. Why did you choose those? What sorts of memories do you have that are attached to those foods?

- ★ **LINE UP! (ENGLISH PORTION):** Pick a food vendor and watch the people in line. Take notes about what you are seeing and experiencing:
 - o What do the people look like?
 - o What are they talking about in line?
 - o Do they seem excited about eating the food?
 - o Take your notes back to English class for use in your project.



After the Fair (Timing: 2 x 45-minute daily classes or 1 x 90-minute block class)

When you return to class following your State Fair visit, you will work in your previously assigned small groups to research the data you collected:

- ★ Agree on both the current and original sources for 8 Fair foods and/or key ingredients.
- ★ Using a physical or digital topographic map, identify the role physical geography plays in the production of each of these dishes and their ingredients.
- ★ Analyze 5 foods or ingredients. Identify elements of cultural geography that shape the popularity, demand, and distribution of each.
- ★ Complete your original poster, updating your initial work to assess the validity of your brainstorming and reflect your new understanding.

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ART COMPONENT

Food is so often, a foundation or key element for family gatherings, social events, or simply a way for people bond. I mean, we all eat, right?

What sorts of foods are part of your family traditions or cultures? Are there certain foods that you attribute to your childhood? Do you have any types of food that you would consider a sort of “comfort food”?

While You’re There...

See the main part of the Quest for instructions.

When You Return...

- ★ On a sheet of Bristol paper, or other thick drawing paper, write the meaning that is behind your decision to highlight the food or foods that you did. Was it a memory? Is it tied to some sort of tradition?
 - Be sure to cover the entire surface of the paper with your story.
- ★ Next, put a light coat of gesso over the paper that you have written on.
 - When it dries, you should barely, if at all, be able to discern the words.
- ★ Now, create a drawing, or small drawings that are tied to that food and that memory on your drawing paper.
 - Why is it special to you?
 - It could be a drawing of a person, an event, the food itself, etc.
 - This is YOUR memory. You are the only one who needs to understand.
- ★ When you have finished, present your work to the class.
 - You can choose to tell them exactly what you wrote, or keep that to yourself and just talk about the food that you chose to highlight and why.



ENGLISH PORTION

Just because we all live in the state of Texas does not mean that we all have the same experiences and customs. For example, eating a taco from a food truck in Austin is a very different experience compared to ordering one from a chain restaurant in Fort Worth. Where we live influences the experiences that we have with food, and your experience eating Fair food is no different.

While You’re There

See the main portion of the Quest for instructions.

After the Fair

- ★ Write a one page, single-spaced story on your computer about one of the people you observed in line.
 - Where is she/he from?
 - What is his/her previous experience with the food?
 - Is the food different at the Fair from his/her hometown?
 - Make sure to provide background information, what he/she is feeling leading up to the order, his/her experience eating the food, and what he/she thinks when he/she is done eating.