The State Fair of Texas Curriculum

Fair Food
Grade 8 STEM
Yummy. Period.
GRADE: Eight

FAIR FOOD

Yummy. Period.

In this lesson students will:
★ Convert Fair Food costs to scientific notation.
★ Explain the periodic table and its organizational properties.
★ Create a Periodic Table of Texas State Fair Foods.

Standards
★ Math TEKS: 8.1(E), 8.2(C), 8.2(D)
★ Science TEKS: 8.5(C)
★ Art TEKS: 8.1(A), 8.2(A), 8.2(B), 8.4(A)

So many fantastic fair foods, so little time! Wouldn’t it be great if some amazing, talented students organized all the foods into a table, with categories that show what they had in common, and what makes them different?

The Periodic Table of Elements does just that for our chemical elements. In this project, students will discover what makes that table tick. Then, they will use this knowledge, and what they find on their trip to the State Fair of Texas, to design their own Periodic Table of State Fair Foods!
Yummy. Period.

Before You Go

How is the Periodic Table of Elements constructed?
★ Why is this a useful organizational chart?
★ What characteristics are used to organize the elements into groups?
★ How are color, line, and shape used to make the table visually pleasing?
★ Describe the numbers you see in the Periodic Table — how are numbers used to organize the elements?

When you get back from your trip to the State Fair of Texas, you'll be designing your own Periodic Table of State Fair Foods!

Decide now on a few details:
★ What will your elements be? State Fair Foods!
★ Decide how many State Fair Foods you will include in your new table.
★ Make sure you have a notebook or a device to record your information, and keep track of how many Fair foods you've recorded, so you have enough for your table.

Plan Your Route.

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

While You're There

The objective of your visit is to consider how you can create a Periodic Table of State Fair foods. Write details about the fair foods you see so you can use that information when you get back.

Optional Materials to Bring

★ Smartphone or Tablet
★ Pencil & Notepad
★ Sketchbook

REQUIRED
★ These characteristics must be represented in your Periodic Table:
• Type of food
• Cost

EXTRA
★ Additional characteristics to consider:
• Number of serving locations
• Cuisine (American, Mexican, German, etc.)
• Whether it's a Big Tex Choice Award Winner
• Ingredients
**After the Fair**

When you return to class following your State Fair visit, you will create your Periodic Table of State Fair Foods, using cost as one of your organizing characteristics.

- When you record the cost of each food in your table, represent the value in scientific notation.
- Make the Periodic Table visually pleasing!
  - View different examples of the way the Periodic Table has been designed.
  - Note the different shapes and colors that designers have used when creating these!
    - Think outside the box with your design.
    - Imagine what sorts of colors and shapes you could use that would visually communicate your ideas to the viewer.
    - The use of line is very important in this design, as well.
- Make sure that you use rulers or other materials to create a clean, easy to read table.
  - Keep size in mind when creating your final work.
  - If it is too small, the details will get lost, so think about using a poster board or other large paper for your work.
- Present your Periodic Table of State Fair Foods to the class, and display for the school.
  - Explain why you organized your foods the way you did.