

THE MIDWAY & GAMES GRADE 4 SOCIAL STUDIES

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS
THE TEXAS STAR ILLUMINATED







Deep in the Heart of Texas The Texas Star Illuminated

In this lesson students will:

- ★ Analyze the patriotic symbols that shape the identity of a state.
- * Summarize the history of the Lone Star.
- ★ Use valid primary and secondary sources to acquire information about Texas.
- ★ Create a new design for the Texas Star.

At a very young age, school
children across our state learn
the catchy tune, "Deep in the Heart
the catchy tune, "Deep in the Heart
of Texas." As the lyrics state,
of Texas." As the lyrics state Fair. As
true at the Texas State Fair. As
true at the Texas State Fair. As
students explore the electronic
students and sounds of the Midway,
sights and sounds of the Midway,
they will discover how patriotic
symbols shape our identity.

NOTE: Suggest to the students that they attempt to do this activity at they attempt the best experience!





Before You Go

- ★ Play the song, "Deep in the Heart of Texas" for the students, and have them analyze the lyrics. Explain that, at the State Fair, the brightest star of all beams brilliantly from the famous Ferris wheel known as the Texas Star.
- ★ Tell the students about the 2004 competition to design the Texas State Quarter.
 - * Show the kids the winning design.
 - * Ask the students to turn to a partner and discuss some reasons that the Lone Star won; then share their results.
- ★ Have the students read a <u>secondary source article</u> about the history of the Lone Star, published by the University of Texas.
 - * Discuss key points, and explain how citations help us determine whether we are analyzing a primary or secondary source.







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- ★ Share a <u>few facts</u> about the Texas Star Ferris Wheel, and challenge all the students to take a ride on this historic landmark.
 - * As you look at the Texas Star, pay close attention to the colors and shapes that the designer incorporated into the Ferris wheel. Is it symmetrical? Are the shapes balanced? What do you like best about it, and why? What would you change?

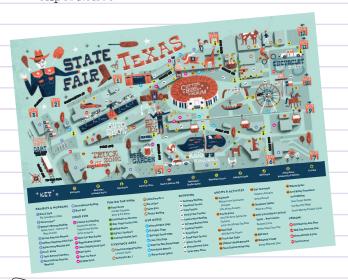
Plan Your Route.

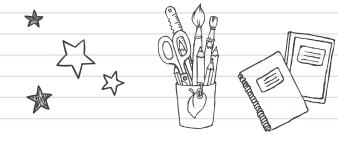
- ★ Make your way into the Fair and head over to the Midway.
- ★ You will see the illuminated Texas Star in the distance, at the far south end of the Midway.
- ★ Try to do this activity at night for the best experience.

"Texas Star Spinning at the Texas State Fair 2007" by Terry Shuck from Garland, Texas, USA - Texas Star Spinning. Licensed under CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons - https://goo.gl/ttAKkg

Optional Materials to Bring

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









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While You're There

★ The objective of your visit is to enjoy a memorable ride on a world famous historical landmark.





UP ABOVE Get a birds-eye view of the

- fair grounds 20 stories above the Earth.
- Purchase the required number of tickets, go to the line for the Texas Star, load the gondola, and begin your 12-minute ride.
 - See how many stars you can count as you reach the
 - Take a photograph with a digital camera or smartphone.

DOWN BELOW

- * Ponder the following questions as you observe and explore:
- What does the Lone Star of Texas represent?
- How do cultural experiences, like visiting the State Fair, impact your sense of patriotism? (In other words, do you feel more patriotic when you visit places like the State Fair?) If yes, why do you think so?
- Why are symbols and landmarks important to citizens of a state or nation?
- Do you think you could count more stars in rural areas, or urban areas? Why?
- How does a birds-eye view change your perspective?

DESIGN DETAILS

- Pay close attention to the details of the Ferris wheel. Think about how you might change this.
- What colors, shapes, and letters do you see? What size are they?
- Would you add more color?
- What about more shapes?
- Should the star be bigger or smaller?
- Is there anything else you notice?



After the Fair

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

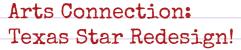
- Write a letter to a relative or friend in another state explaining how the Lone Star represents the identity of Texas citizens.
 - * Describe your experience riding the Texas Star using sensory language and elaborative detail.
 - * Make your reader feel as though they were on the Ferris wheel with you!

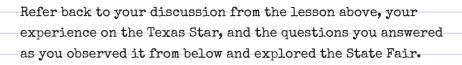












Now, imagine that you get to redesign the look of the Texas Star!

- * What would you do differently?
- * Would you keep anything the same?
- ★ Keep in mind the colors, shapes, and sizes that you would use.
- ★ Be sure to make some preliminary sketches before creating your final design.
- * When you are finished, present your work to the class.
- ★ Talk about the creative choices that you made regarding your colors and overall design.



