

Alphabetic Passport

The State Fair Guide to Geography's "Big 5"



QUEST 6 GEOGRAPHY

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS CURRICULUM

No doubt about it, the Fair is a crazy place, chock full of fabulous foods, rip-roaring rides, and excellent exhibits. It's also a crazy-good place to explore and apply your knowledge about geography's five big themes: **location, place, region, movement and human-environment interaction**. From chicken-fried steak, which owes its crispy deliciousness to German immigrants, to displays of stunning African-American quilts, the Fair is perhaps the perfect laboratory for testing and extending your understanding of Geography.



During this Live @ the Fair Quest, you will:

- ★ Explore the five themes of geography in the context of your Fair Day visit.
- ★ Using your evidence and analysis, write a two-page, expository essay that underscores the importance of the five themes and ties them to critical components of our daily lives.
- ★ Create an art piece on canvas that's representative of the Five Geographic Themes.
- ★ Design a multimedia presentation that incorporates the Geographic Themes and Fair Day activities.

★ **Answer the Essential Questions:** Why is "where" important? What are the five geographic themes; what are examples of each in current, everyday life; and how do the five themes contribute to our understanding of why "where" is important?

★ **Achieve the Learning Target:** I can explain how differences among perspective, experience and culture reflect different environments – and I'm able to employ location as well as political, economic, social, cultural and environmental characteristics to define the geography of a location(s).

Source: http://abali.ru/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/shar_pokrytij_flagami_miral.png



Standards

- ★ Art TEKS: Art I: 1A, 1C, 1D, 2F, 4A; Art II: 1A, 2A, 2F, 4A
- ★ ELAR TEKS: E1(15)(D), E1(25)
- ★ Career Development TEKS: 127.15 (c) (1) (A-I), (2) (A-C)
- ★ Geography TEKS: 5(A), 9(A), 19(B)

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STATE FAIR MAP



Before You Go – 45-minute class or 0.5 x 90-minute block class

- ★ Hold brief discussion about the five themes of geography.
- ★ Make sure the students develop working definitions of – and can list an initial example of – each of the five themes of Geography.
- ★ Plan your Quest through the Fairgrounds, identifying likely places to gather examples of each of the five themes.
 - o You should plan to provide photos and supporting evidence or observations.



Invitation

- ★ Invite students to bring the listed materials and follow the route, and perform the tasks below at the State Fair of Texas:



Plan Your Route

- ★ To pick up a “stamp” for each letter of the alphabet in your State Fair of Texas Geography Passport, you’ll want to consider your Fair Day choices across a range of categories – and, along with that, across a range of venues and vendors at the Fairgrounds.
- ★ **Start at the Exhibit Halls.**
 - o Here you’ll find stunning examples of arts and crafts that are both uniquely Texan AND influenced by people and art forms from around the world.
- ★ Then, you can **hit the Auto Zone** to take a look at cars that hail from outside the U.S.
- ★ **Head to the SkyPorch** to look at the foods we Texans love, and identify their global roots.



Optional Materials to Bring Your “The State Fair of Texas: An Alphabetic Passport of Global Greatness!” chart

- ★ Pen or Pencil
- ★ Notebook or Paper
- ★ Smartphone or Tablet
- ★ A printed map of the State Fair of Texas, available online or at your gate of entry

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While You're There

The objective of your visit is to find as many countries represented at the Fair, by as many letters of the alphabet as possible, and covering the Five Themes of Geography as equally as possible...all in one day...demonstrating the validity of the study of Geography in real life!

★**ALPHABETIC PASSPORT: "The State Fair of Texas: An Alphabetic Passport of Global Greatness!"** chart has been made available for you to pick up observational "stamps" in your passport, letter by letter.

- o Your job? Working with a partner or a small group, observe and record your way through the Fair, identifying examples of exhibits, arts, crafts, foods, people, souvenirs - anything, really - that draw upon the five themes of geography!
- o The instructions are on the chart, but basically, use your camera and your "passport" to illustrate the importance of "where."
 - ☐ Try to cover the five themes as equally as you can
 - ☐ Agree on and record the theme that applies to each of your "finds."
- o Once you've collected your Fair Day data, tuck it away someplace safe and bring it to class for group discussion and analysis.

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The State Fair of Texas: An Alphabetic Passport to Global Greatness!

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

Instructions

Today at the Fair, you'll be examining the geographic ABCs of Texas and its people.

- Working your way through the alphabet, find and fill out information below about exhibits, food, shows, and people that together illustrate the global origins of this state we call Texas.
- Then, using your smart phone or a camera, you and your group will photograph each of your items to illustrate your geographic guide to the State Fair.
- Find items for X and Z for bonus Extra Credit!

Letter	Item	Explanation / Observation	Geography Theme
Example	Water mill at the Old Mill Restaurant	Water mills originated in ancient Greece in the 3 rd century	Human-environment interaction
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			
I			
J			
K			
L			
M			
N			
O			
P			
Q			
R			
S			
T			
U			
V			
W			
X (bonus!)			
Y			
Z (bonus!)			

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After the Fair - 45-minute class or 0.5 x 90-minute block class

When you return to class following your State Fair visit, you will first work in your assigned small group to compare and discuss the data you gathered.

- ★ What were some of the items you found?
 - Where you found the same item or artwork, did you agree on its classification by theme?
- ★ How did your passport items affect your understanding of each theme?
 - Did any particular themes become more important than they first seemed to you, and, if so, why?
 - What was your most surprising discovery?
 - Did you discover any global origins to something you always thought was Texan?
- ★ Finally, write a college-ready paper of at least two pages.
 - **Prompt:** "Write a well-supported essay wherein you explain the roles that both location and geographic origin play in shaping a group or region's culture and, consequently, perspective. Use specific evidence from your day of observation at the State Fair to support your answer."



ART PORTION

Now that you have examples of the 5 main themes of Geography from the State Fair of Texas, create an artwork that is reflective of those themes!

- ★ Take a large canvas, or a large sheet of paper, and, using masking tape, tape off 5 different areas.
 - They do NOT need to be the same size or shape, but make sure that you have overall balance in your shapes.
 - Check out the image here for an example of taping off a canvas. Although this example has multiple shapes, you only need 5.
- ★ Now, you can get as creative as you want with the background.
 - You could apply a wash over the entire piece, paint each shape a different color, etc.
- ★ Each of the shapes will be your representation of each of the 5 themes of geography in regard to the State Fair.
 - For example, one shape will represent its location, one of the movement you experienced there, and so on.
- ★ When you have finished everything, peel off the tape.
 - Present your work to your peers and talk about how your 5 areas represent the 5 main themes of geography from The State Fair of Texas.
 - If possible, each student should hang their work so that you can have a gallery walk and see how each person experienced these 5 themes differently!



ENGLISH PORTION

Once you finish writing your paper, you will produce a multimedia presentation to supplement your paper and present to the class. The presentation should be recorded and uploaded to YouTube. The presentation should:

1. Be at least three minutes long
2. Contain the A-Z photos that you found as you were working on your passport
3. Summarize the main points of your paper
4. Include an introduction and conclusion
5. Include a soundtrack for the passport photos