

How can I best use these materials to support the Social Studies TEKS for Grade 5?

This issue's collection of stories and photographs offers students the views of two astute contemporaries regarding the current events and attitudes of their day. Short-story writer O. Henry and photographer I.N. Hall reveal insights about life from the 1880s through about 1910 with unselfconscious artistry. The highly motivating content of this issue directly supports the content goals for 5th grade in the following ways:

An overview of major events and significant individuals of the late 19th century and early 20th century can be seen through the eyes of Will Porter (O. Henry) by using the "Creating and Using a Timeline" activity, wherein students note the contributions of inventors, scientists, artists, and writers.

Primary resources such as O. Henry's stories, Hall's photographs, and Mrs. Wood's speech offer students an opportunity to glean important information firsthand, like a historian or social sciences researcher does.

A sense of time and place within the flow of history and the span of U.S. geography can be supported with the use of Hall's photographs and O. Henry's stories, created contemporarily.

Integrate this social studies content with other disciplines by reading aloud O. Henry's "Jimmy Hayes and Muriel" as a literature activity and doing all or part of the lesson plans "A Home for the Texas Horned Lizard" as a science activity.

Activities Support the Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS):

- History. The "Creating and Using a Timeline" activity offers students a glimpse of the political, economic, social, and cultural benchmarks of the late 19th and early 20th centuries (5.4). A look at photographs and stories of life in their own region helps students view how industry and the mechanization of agriculture, beginning with irrigation and the rail shipping of agricultural products, changed the American way of life (5.4 F) and see the setting from which sprung particular historical movements, such as the women's movement and Civil Rights (5.5 A).
- Geography. The stories of O. Henry and the photographs of I.N. Hall describe in unique ways the landforms, climate, and vegetation of the region of southwest Texas (5.7 B).
- Economics. The stories of O. Henry and the photographs of I.N. Hall describe in unique ways how people in this region of the United States earned a living in the past and the geographic factors which influenced the location of their economic activities (5.14 A and B). In addition, other of O. Henry's stories reflect earning a living and geographic factors of the period in New York, New Orleans, the South, and other parts of the West such as Colorado and New Mexico.
- Culture. A significant writer, popular in his own day and in ours, O. Henry's works *are* significant examples of literature written at the turn of the 20th century and reflect the times during which they were created (5.22 A and B).
- Science, technology, and society. Materials in this unit allow students to identify how technological innovations such as the expanded railroad systems and advancements in agriculture (5.24 B) advanced the development of the United States. Stories such as "Hygiea at the Solito" and "The Reformation of Calliope" allow students to glimpse accepted treatments for and attitudes toward such diseases as tuberculosis and alcoholism which have changed drastically over the last century (5.24 C). The lesson plans "A Home for the Texas Horned Lizard" help students understand how intentional environmental change brought about by technological innovations have had unintended effects (5.24 D).
- Social Studies Skills. Students doing the activities in "A Home for the Texas Horned Lizard" will conclude their primary and secondary research activities by creating a PowerPoint presentation (5.25 A). Students doing the "Creating and Using a Timeline" activity will organize and interpret information and consider O. Henry's point of view and his frame of reference regarding the events of his era (5.25 C, D, and E.) and express ideas orally (5.26 C).