

How can I best use these materials to support the Social Studies TEKS for Grade 7?

Activities for this topic support the essential knowledge and skills:

History (7.2A): Use the activity “An Archaeologist in Your Room” to help students understand how we know about people who left no written record—and how archaeologists and anthropologists must sometimes make educated guesses to fill in the gaps.

Geography (7.8A): Direct individuals and teams to the activities at the “Kids Dig Reed Farmstead” site (<http://www.kidsdigreed.com/default.asp>; click on “Discovery Zone”) for an aerial view of a grid game related to an archaeological survey. This up-close-and-personal grid (you can see trees and locate hidden artifacts) illustrates how any grid, from city street maps to longitude and latitude, can be used to locate an item geographically.

Citizenship (7.17C, 7.21E and F, 7.23B): Direct students to <http://www.racismagainstindians.org/> for clear essays and explanations about timely issues such as Indian sports mascot names, Native American Heritage Month, an Indian view of “Discovering Columbus,” as well as biographical sketches of famous Americans with native roots (including Shania Twain, Colin Powell, Val Kilmer, and Johnny Depp) and many primary source texts such as quotes, speeches, historical documents, and newspaper articles related to Indian issues.

Culture (7.19B): Call a local Native American spokesperson or one of the storytellers listed in the newsletter to hear traditional and personal stories from contemporary Native Americans. Each storyteller is different, but the first-person sharing of stories gives a different perspective and increases students’ sensitivity to native issues. Include time for students to ask questions about Native American issues.

Science, Technology, and Society (7.20 B): The 1995 discovery and 1997 excavation of La Salle’s ship *La Belle* in Matagorda Bay placed marine archaeologist Barto Arnold, leader of the Texas Historical Commission team, in the spotlight as a scientist and as a man who followed his dream. Read more at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/lasalle/lasbelle.html>. Also, the Texas Historical Commission has prepared lesson plans related to La Salle and archaeology at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/lasalle/laseducation.html> (Lessons 9-12 address 7th grade Social Studies and Language Arts TEKS). Arnold is presently at the Nautical Research Program at Texas A&M, where he is continuing his marine archaeological work on the *Denbigh* project, excavating a Civil War blockaderunner. More at <http://nautarch.tamu.edu/PROJECTS/denbigh/denbigh.html>.

Social studies skills (7.21A, B, and C): For an exercise in sequencing, consider the stratification activity at the “Kids Dig Reed Farmstead” site, <http://www.kidsdigreed.com/games.asp>.