

Whose Business?

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Subject: Social Studies

Grade level: 4

Rationale or Purpose: To compare the businesses in the town of Fort Griffin (The Flat) to those in the students' community. To investigate the factors that influence the development of specific types of businesses in a community.

Materials:

Map of the town of Fort Griffin (student handout). Map also found on the *Texas Beyond History*/ Fort Griffin web site:

<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/forts/griffin/images/flatmap.html>. Map of the students' school community (purchased or informally drawn by the class on butcher paper)

Chart paper and markers (for class lists)

Notebook paper or student social studies journals and pencils (for small group lists)

Access to the Fort Griffin web site

Objectives:

- Economics 4.13B, explain how geographic factors influence economic activities
- Economics 4.13C and E, identify other factors that influence economic growth
- Social studies skills 4.22B, analyze information by comparing and contrasting

Activity:

Step 1: With the entire class, brainstorm a list of the businesses and organizations that can be found in the school community. (Guide students to include non-commercial sites such as churches, hospitals and schools.) Write the list on chart paper and post it where it can be seen easily.

Step 2: Working with a partner or in small groups, students will examine the map of Fort Griffin on the web site or a print-out of the map and create a list of the businesses and buildings mentioned there.

Step 3: With the entire class, create a composite list of the responses students noted in Step 2. Compare the lists and mark the responses common to both locations. Discuss the following questions: (Display the map of the Fort Griffin area to help students identify some of the reasons for the presence of certain businesses in the town.)

- 1.) What businesses and buildings do both communities have in common?
- 2.) Which businesses or buildings in the Fort Griffin community are not found in the community around the school? Why?
- 3.) Which businesses or buildings in the school community are not found in Fort Griffin? Why?
- 4.) What general factors determine which businesses or buildings will be in a community?

Modification: Pair students to provide support for struggling readers.

Student Product: Class lists of businesses in both communities.

Closure: If you were moving to the Fort Griffin community during the 1800's, what business would you try to establish? Why?

Assessment or evaluation: Choose one business that Fort Griffin and your community have in common and one business that was found in only one community and explain why your choices would be needed in their communities. Write a sentence or two about each business.

Extension: Explore the Fort Griffin site on *Texas Beyond History* <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/forts/griffin/index.html> to learn more about the history of the community. On this webpage, the town of Fort Griffin is known as The Flat. Look up your own community's web site to find out what it was like during the 1800's. Draw a map of the community around your school showing all of the businesses and organizations in the area.

Student Handout

Map of the Town of Fort Griffin (The Flat)

