

Timeline for the Western Texas Frontier



Subject and Grade Social Studies, 4th and 7th

Author Mary S. Black,
revised by Jason Terry (2023)

Time duration Two to three 45-minute class periods

Objective By constructing a timeline of events on the western Texas frontier, students will understand the rapid changes in population, settlement, migration, transportation, and political control of Texas as it expanded westward.

TEKS *Social Studies, 4th Grade*

(1C), describe the cultural regions in which American Indians lived such as Gulf, Plains, Puebloan, and Southeastern

(3D), describe the successes, problems, and organizations of the Republic of Texas such as the establishment of a constitution, economic struggles, relations with American Indians, and the Texas Rangers; and

(4D), explain the effects on American Indian life brought about by the Red River War, building of U.S. forts and railroads, and loss of buffalo

(19B), analyze information by applying absolute and relative chronology through sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing,

contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions

(19C), organize and interpret information in outlines, reports, databases, and visuals, including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps

Social Studies, 7th Grade

(1A), identify the major eras in Texas history, describe their defining characteristics, Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads

(1B), explain the significance of the following dates: 1845, annexation; 1861, Civil War begins

(4A), identify individuals, events, and issues during the administrations of Republic of Texas Presidents Houston, Lamar, the Council House Fight

(6A), identify significant individuals, events, and issues, including the factors leading to the expansion of the Texas frontier, the effects of westward expansion on American Indians, the buffalo soldiers, and Quanah Parker

(20C), organize and interpret information from outlines, reports, databases, and visuals, including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps

Materials

1. Computers and internet access for the “Texas Frontier Timeline”:

<https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/forts/36-44.html>

2. paper

3. colored markers/pens/pencils

-
4. event and date cards for extension activities (included)

Activities and procedures

Step 1: Students can work in pairs or individually at the computer to access:

<https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/forts/36-44.html>.

Step 2: Students construct an illustrated timeline with the following dates: 1836, 1845, 1848, 1854, 1861, 1866, 1872, 1879, 1882. Students choose one event for each year and illustrate it on the timeline.

Step 3/Closure: Students share their timelines with the class, explaining why they selected certain events.

Extension Activities/Alternate Closure or Assessment

1. Card Sort. Divide students into groups of 3-4. Create enough sets of cards so that each group has one set. Give each group the entire set of cards, or only specific cards from the stack at teacher discretion. Let them know that some dates may have more than one event card that corresponds to it.
2. Have group members work together or individually to match the date cards to the event cards and put them in order. If students choose to work one at a time, have one group member act as timer, one as 'checker', and allow other students in the group to be a 'lifeline' to offer advice if the student arranging the cards gets stuck. If students in the group choose to work together, the teacher or another appointed student will need to check the accuracy of the cards.

-
3. Compete to see which student or groups can match the date cards to the event cards the quickest.
 4. To increase difficulty and engagement, the teacher may walk around the room and add additional cards to the group's set.
 5. Cards may also be used to play 'memory', or event cards may be arranged in the proper historical order without matching to the date cards. Cards may be added or removed to match what has been learned in class or to increase or decrease difficulty.
 6. Have students learn more about the Red River War at:
<https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/redriver/index.html>

1836

1836

1836

1839

1839

1840

1840

1845

1845

1852

1855

1859

1860

1861

1862

1863

1865

1866

1867

1867

1871

1873

1874

1874

1875	1880	1881	1882
<p>Battle of San Jacinto; Texas Independence From Mexico</p>	<p>Sam Houston becomes the first president of the Republic of Texas</p>	<p>Comanche attack Fort Parker taking 3 white prisoners, including Cynthia Ann Parker</p>	<p>TX capital moves from Houston to Austin, located on the edge of the TX frontier</p>
<p>President Lamar sends TX force to remove Cherokee tribe from East TX</p>	<p>Council House Fight between Comanche and Texans in San Antonio ruins chances of peace</p>	<p>Comanche raid across central Texas to the Gulf Coast as revenge for Council House Fight</p>	<p>Texas annexed by the United States</p>

Protection of the TX frontier becomes the responsibility of the U.S.	U.S. Army abandons older forts and builds new forts farther west	Several Indian reservations open on upper Brazos River	Texan settlers attack reservations on Brazos; most natives relocate to Indian Territory (Oklahoma)
Cynthia Ann Parker recovered from Comanche by Texas Rangers	Texas votes to secede from the Union	Responsibility for guarding frontier falls back on TX	Indian Raids on Texas settlements increase due to lack of protection by U.S. Army
The Civil War ends; U.S. Army troops return to TX	Goodnight - Loving cattle trail established	Medicine Lodge Treaty results in many Plains tribes relocating to Indian Territory	First cattle herds travel from TX to Kansas on the Chisholm Trail

Warren Wagon Train Massacre	"Buffalo Soldiers" arrive to help guard the TX frontier	Second Battle of Adobe Walls between Plains Tribes and buffalo hunters	"Red River War" begins with goal of forcing Plains Tribes onto reservations
Quanah Parker and remaining Comanche relocate to Indian Territory	Apache warriors led by Chief Victorio raid West Texas settlements	Soldiers chase Apache raiders into Mexico; last action against Indian tribes by U.S. Army in TX.	The Texas and Pacific Railroad reaches El Paso from Fort Worth

Timeline For the Western Frontier Card Sort Key

1836: Battle of San Jacinto; Texas Independence from Mexico

1836: Sam Houston becomes the first president of the Republic of Texas

1836: Comanche attack Fort Parker taking 3 white prisoners, including Cynthia Ann Parker

1839: Texas capital moves from Houston to Austin, located on the edge of the TX frontier

1839: President Lamar sends TX force to remove the Cherokee from East TX

1840: Council House Fight between Comanche and Texans in San Antonio ruins chances of peace

1840: Comanche raid across central Texas to the Gulf Coast as revenge for Council House Fight

1845: Texas annexed by the United States

1845: Protection of the TX frontier becomes the responsibility of the U.S.

1852: U.S. Army abandons older forts and builds new forts farther west

1855: Several Indian reservations open on upper Brazos River

1859: Texan settlers attack Indian reservation on Brazos; most Indians relocated to Indian Territory (Oklahoma)

1860: Cynthia Ann Parker recovered from Comanche by Texas Rangers

1861: Texas votes to secede from the Union

1862: Responsibility for guarding frontier falls back on TX

1863: Indian Raids on Texas settlements increase due to lack of protection by U.S. Army

1865: The Civil War ends; U.S. Army troops return to TX

1866: Goodnight-Loving cattle trail established

1867: Medicine Lodge Treaty results in many Plains tribes relocating to Indian Territory

1867: First cattle herds travel from TX to Kansas on the Chisholm Trail

1871: Warren Wagon Train Massacre

1873: "Buffalo Soldiers" arrive to help guard the TX frontier

1874: Second Battle of Adobe Walls between Plains Tribes and buffalo hunters

1874: "Red River War" begins with goal of forcing Plains Tribes onto reservations

1875: Quanah Parker and remaining Comanche relocate to Indian Territory

1880: Apache warriors led by Chief Victorio raid West Texas settlements

1881: Soldiers chase Apache raiders into Mexico; last action against Indian tribes by U.S. Army in TX.

1882: The Texas and Pacific Railroad reaches El Paso from Fort Worth