

Teaching US History for TAKS Index with Objectives

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Workshop Objective: *In this three day workshop we explored how to prepare the students for the upcoming Social Studies TAKS test not by focusing on the test itself, but on the elements of good teaching: curriculum, instruction, and assessment. One day was spent on each of these three elements. Day 1, Curriculum, did have ample information about the TAKS test and documents to aid in the understanding of and preparation for the test. Much of the day is spent on Wiggins and McTighe's Understanding by Design unit design process. Day 2, Instruction, was devoted to improving one's classroom teaching techniques. The focus of the training was from International Center for Leadership in Education's Instruction Strategies: How to Teach for Rigor and Relevance. Day 3, Assessment, focused on assessment practices and a close look at the expectations of the Social Studies TAKS test, based on the sample questions in the Information Booklets and other activities.*

[Cover Page](#)

[Homework](#)

I. Curriculum

[Agenda - Curriculum](#)

[Warm up- Autobiographical Twins](#)

Objective: Since this is a three-day workshop, the first warm-up activity is more extensive and allow report to be developed among the participants.

Resources

TEKS by Content Groups

- ◆ [5, 8, & US History TEKS by Strand](#)
- ◆ [6, 7, & 8 TEKS by Strand](#)
- ◆ [TEKS by Content Groups](#)

[Web Resources](#)

Primary Resources on the Web

TAKS Information and Documents

Objective: These documents, many from the TEA website, are to aid teachers in understanding the depth of the TAKS test.

TAKS Objectives

TAKS Information Booklets

[Grade 8](#)

[Grade 10](#)

[Grade 11](#)

TAKS Blueprints

[Grade 8](#)

[Grade 10](#)

[Grade 11](#)

TAKS Calendar

Exit Level Social Studies SE's

Grade 8 Student Expectations on 10 & 11 TAKS

Correlation to Elementary TEKS on Grade 8 TAKS

World History/ World Geography TEKS on Grade 11 TAKS

Grade 8 TAKS in World History TEKS

TAKS Assessment - Student Expectation per TAKS objective

State Board of Education Passing Standards for Social Studies

Characteristics of Good Curriculum

Objective: An activity for teachers begin to think about what curriculum really is.

The Verbs of the TEKS Exercise

Objective: All good curriculum starts with the TEKS, but how are we expected to teach them and at what levels? This helps the teachers understand that the TEKS, through the verbs used in the student expectations, calls for a multi-leveled and well-planned curriculum.

Concepts and Content in US History Standards: Teaching Vertically

- ◆ [Concepts and Content Worksheet](#)

Objective: For teachers to see the possibilities of vertical alignment of the US History in the 5th, 8th and US History course and how they build through the grade levels.

Understanding by Design Unit Development

Objective: Understanding by Design provides an excellent model for designing one's curriculum and creating units. Although more training would be needed for teacher to truly implement this process, seeing some of the basic precepts of UbD will hopefully aid them how they develop units of instruction.

[UbD Presentation](#)

[UbD Template](#)

[Key Design Questions](#)

[Curricular Priorities](#)

[Filtering Enduring Understandings](#)

[Facets and Verbs](#)

[Goals – Roles – Products of UbD Performance Tasks](#)

[GRASPS - WHERE](#)

Planning Guide for Social Studies

Objective: Using the Short version of the Planning Guide, teachers can see how prepared they are for the upcoming changes in Social Studies in Texas. The Planning Guide is a series of questions that teachers work on as a school and share with other districts.

[Worksheet or Short Version](#)

[Complete Planning Guide](#)

II. Instruction

Agenda - Instruction

Warm up: Montillation of Traxoline

Objective: How many times has this been how we teach a subject (“Read this – fill in the worksheet – memorize for the quiz)?

Characteristics of Effective Instruction

Objective: An activity for teachers begin to think about what instruction really should be.

Best Practices Continuum

Objective: To have teachers do a short, self-evaluation of their own classroom practices.

Teaching with Rigor and Relevance Presentation

Objective: To demonstrate multiple different teaching strategies and how they could be used in their classroom.

- ◆ PowerPoint Presentation
- ◆ Rigor and Relevance Worksheet
- ◆ Rigor and Relevance Charts on Excel
 - Assessment
 - Rigor And Relevance Framework
- ◆ Learning Styles
- ◆ Cooperative Learning Strategies

Sharing Teaching Strategies

Objective: From the homework assignment, teacher are to share their favorite teaching strategy.

- ◆ Project Based Learning
- ◆ S. O. A. P. S.
- ◆ Political Cartoons with Bart O’Brien

III. Assessment

Agenda - Assessment

Warm-up: TAKS Practice Test

Characteristics of Assessment

Objective: An activity for teachers begin to think about what assessment really is.

Looking at the TAKS Sample Questions Presentation

Objective: Using questions from the Practice Test, this allows teaching to see the expectations of the test and if they feel their students are being prepared to succeed on the test.

Looking Your Data: Setting Goals

State

Your District

Objective: From the Homework assignment, teacher's evaluate their own scores of the TAAS test for grade 8 Social Studies (and any other information they feel important) and begin set goals and to prepare how they improve their weaknesses.

Looking at Data: Once more from the "TEKS TOOLS"

Objective: Using Data Driven Decision Making from the TEKS TOOLS CD, teacher begin to see the importance of data and how it can be used to improve their Social Studies Program.

Creating Good Test Questions

PowerPoint Presentation

Objective: Since the TAKS test for Social Studies is multiple choice and there is a shortage of benchmark test items for teacher, this presentation is designed to help them create good TAKS-like questions for use in their classes.

What's your Plan for TAKS? Pair and Share!

Evaluation Tool