

THE STORY OF THE LONE STAR STATE

iAct Houston

Grades: K-6

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

This original production by Houston's award-winning children's theater takes a bite out of Texas history. Beginning with the Native Peoples of the Gulf Coast through the adventures of NASA's astronauts, six hundred years of Texas tales are told in an hour (45-minute version by request). Audiences will learn about the folklore of the Karankawa & Caddo tribes, Spanish exploration, Hispanic heritage, and the many cultures and peoples that have shaped our state. Four actors play over 50 different roles, bringing to life such colorful characters as Cabeza De Vaca, Santa Anna, and Sam Houston's trusted friend Deaf Smith. Students not only experience a fantastic performance - they become part of history. InterActive Theater Company offers a unique style of theater in allowing students to participate in the performance - through volunteering to come on stage, answering questions or offering suggestions to the actors. Teachers and educators will find their Texas history curriculum enhanced by this production that is at once educational and entertaining. So saddle up for the ride of your life - 600 years in 60 minutes...and don't worry, we'll remember the Alamo!!

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills)

Grade	ELA	Social Studies	Science
K	k.b.1,k.b.6,k.b.8,k.b.10	k.b.1, k.b.2, k.b.3,k.b.4,k.b.10,k.b.14,k.b.15	k.b.9
1	1.b.1,1.b.7,1.b.8,1.b.9,1.b.13	1.b.1,1.b.2,1.b.3,1.b.5,1.b.14,1. b.17,1.b.18	1.b.4,1.b.9,1.b.10
2	2.b.1,2.b.7,2.b.8,2.b.9, 2.b.11, 2.b.12, 2.b.13	2.b.1,2.b.2,2.b.3,2.b.4,2.b.5,2.b. 6,2.b.8,2.b.10,2.b.14,2.b.18,2.b. 19	2.b.9, 2.b.10
3	3.b.1,3.b.7,3.b.9,3.b.11,3.b.12,3 .b.13	3.b.3,3.b.4,3.b.5,3.b.7,3.b.8,3.b. 14,3.b.15,3.b.17,3.b.18	3.b.9, 3.b.10,
4	4.b.1,4.b.7,4.b.8,4.b.9,4.b.11,4. b.12,4.b.13	4.b.1,4.b.2,4.b.3,4.b.6,4.b.7, 4.b.9,4.b.12,4.b.13,4.b.17,4.b.2 0,4.b.21,4.b.22	4.b.9, 4.b.10
5	5.b.1,5.b.7,5.b.9,5.b.11,5.b.12,5 .b.13	5.b.7,5.b.8,5.b.12,5.b.13, 5.b.24,5.b.25	5.b.9, 5.b.10
6	6.b.5,6.b.6,6.b.7,6.b.9,6.b.10,6. b.14,6.b.15,6.b.18,6.b.22,6.b.23 ,6.b.24,6.b.25,6.b.26, 6.b.27,6.b.28	6.b.4,6.b.7,6.b.8,6.b.10,6.b.21,6 .b.22	6.b.12

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Before the performance:

Discuss good audience etiquette. How does an audience member behave at a theatre performance? How is it different from attending a sports event, rock concert, or other event?

Discuss what students know about Texas. What is the state flower? Flag? What songs and stories do they know about Texas? Have they traveled to other parts of Texas, if so what did it look like?

After the performance:

Discuss the students' favorite moments from the play. What surprised them? What do they remember the most?

Language Arts/Social Studies:

Texas Vacation Time Travel: write and record your own travel commercial for vacationing in Texas during the past or present. Research destination areas, historical facts, and things to do. Find visuals and music to support your pitch. Write a 30 second script sharing fun facts and things to do in a particular part and time period of Texas. Audio or video record your commercial and play it for an audience – did you persuade them? Do they want to vacation in Texas?

Texas Timeline: create a timeline for Texas from its days as a colony to becoming a state. What are the major events that should appear on the timeline? What visuals can you place on the timeline to represent historic moments?

Brand it: ranchers and farmers use brands to identify their livestock. Research famous brands from Texas and their meaning. Design your own brand by preplanning the meaning, symbolism, and materials for your brand. Then either draw your brand or make a 3d version from materials such as aluminum foil, modeling clay, or coat hanger wire. Write a short essay or paragraph about your design process and the meaning of your brand.

Storybook/Narrative essay: who are important historical figures from Texas history that often get overlooked? Can you find information on women, Native Americans, Asian-American, and African-American persons from Texas history? Select one and explore their life story. Share their history and accomplishments by making your own story book or writing a narrative essay about them. What was their lasting contribution to Texas? Why might we not hear as much about them as other well-known Texas contributors?

Science:

Habitat: Research animals specific to Texas. Select one and research its habitat. Where does it live? What does it eat? What is its place in the ecosystem? What does it need in its habitat to survive? Represent the habitat through a drawing, a collage, or recreate the habitat in a shoebox. Be sure that your representation reflects the facts of that animal's habitat and how it survives and thrives.

Exports and Industries: what are the major exports and industries specific to Texas? Select one and do further research. How much money does it bring in to the state? What raw materials does it need to be financially successful? Are there environmental positive and negative attributes to this industry? How has this industry changed over time? Create a paper or virtual poster for this industry. Your poster should share this industry's history, economic contributions, and environmental impacts. Use visual images, graphs, charts, and facts to share your information.

RESOURCES

Related Websites

Digital Public Library: Texas Revolution Primary Sources

<https://dp.la/primary-source-sets/texas-revolution>

Library of Congress: Texas Resources

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/states/texas/index.html>

National Geographic Kids: The Lone Star State

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/states/texas/#texas-alamo.jpg>

Portal to Texas History (primary documents)

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/>

Texas Almanac: Physical Features of Texas

<https://texasalmanac.com/topics/environment/physical-regions-texas>

Texas Beyond History

<https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/kids/index.html>

The Alamo

<http://www.thealamo.org/>

Texas Mission Guide

<http://www.texasmissionguide.com/>

ABOUT THE ARTIST / ENSEMBLE:

iAct Houston, formerly InterActive Theater Company, produces a full season of original and interactive productions based on literature and history for children and families, as well as featuring a repertory unit to tour the metropolitan area.

InterActive was originally founded in 1998, after seeing the growing need for family theater and arts programming in Houston, and refreshed in 2018 to become iAct Houston, helping people of all ages to explore their creative potential through original, improvisational storytelling and creative drama. iAct Houston has become a true pacesetter: producing theater that quite literally brings children from the audience into each and every performance. With innovative and original scripts and an improvisational performance style, iAct Houston is, without a doubt, a must-see, can't-miss, gotta-go-again arts experience for children and grown-up children alike!

And if we can toot our own horn just a bit more: iAct Houston has produced over 50 original plays. We've performed for students in every school district in the greater Houston area. And iAct has been awarded "Best Professional Children's Theater" by the Southwest Theater Association.

These days, iAct Houston presents a full year of arts and education programming, for about 60,000 folks every year. Our main stage season offers 4 to 6 original productions, and our touring company allows us go mobile,



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS GUIDE
Artist / Ensemble
Performance

bringing theater to schools and communities in greater Houston as well as Montgomery, Washington and Fort Bend Counties.