



Texas

2 *Studies Weekly*

CONNECTING MY COMMUNITIES



Our Shared Heritage

As Texans, we have symbols, customs, and celebrations. They reflect who we are. They create our shared heritage. They help make up our state identity. We can learn about our culture by studying our symbols. We can learn about and honor important people. We do this by studying our landmarks, such as monuments and memorials.



The Alamo

Texas Symbols and Landmarks

Bluebonnet

The bluebonnet is our state flower. Most bluebonnet flowers are blue. Sometimes they can grow to be white or pink. There is a Texas legend about the flowers. It says the white flowers represent the Lone Star on the Texas Flag. The legend says the pink flowers grow in honor of those who died at the Alamo. The Alamo is where Texas' fight for independence happened. The flowers are symbols of those who died so Texas could be free.



The Longhorn

The Texas Longhorn is our state's large mammal. These unique animals were not originally found in Texas. Spanish explorers and settlers brought cattle to Texas. Some of their cattle escaped and became wild. The long-horned cattle became known for how well they adapted to and survived in early Texas. They became a symbol of the Texas people.



Northern Mockingbird

The mockingbird is our state bird. It has amazing vocal abilities. It can make the sounds of other birds. It can even sound like a machine. Texas lawmakers decided it would be the state bird in 1927. They said the mockingbird "... is found in all parts of the state, in winter and in summer, in the city and in the country, on the prairie and in the woods and hills ... is a singer of distinctive type, a fighter for the protection of his home, falling, if need be, in its defense, like any true Texan...."



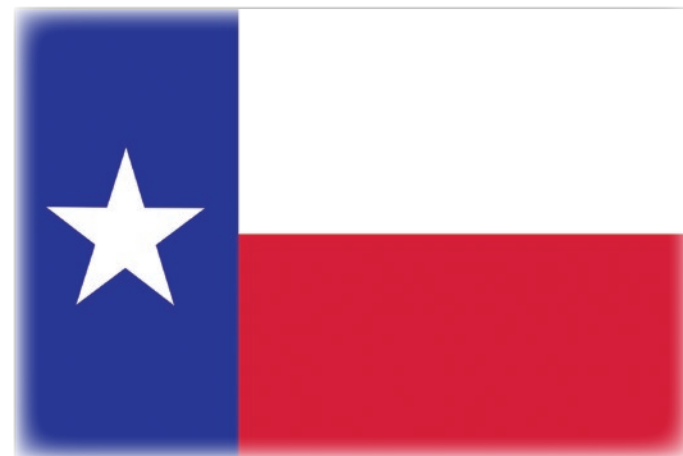
USS Lexington

The USS Lexington is an aircraft carrier. Members of the United States military used it to defend our country. The ship defended the United States for almost 50 years. It was used during World War II. It was so hard to sink that it earned the nickname "The Blue Ghost." Today the ship is retired. It is now a memorial and museum. It is a reminder of people who fought to defend freedom.



Texas Flag and Pledge

Texas has its own state flag and pledge. A pledge is a promise. When you pledge allegiance, you are promising to be loyal. Find the Texas pledge on this page. Read the words. Look at the picture of the Texas state flag. The red represents bravery. The white represents purity. The blue represents loyalty. The single star represents Texas' nickname, "the Lone Star State."



"Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."

Texas Governor's Mansion

The Texas Governor's Mansion has been the home for the Texas governor since 1856. It is one of the oldest governor's residences in the country. It has been restored a number of times over the years. In 2008, it was badly damaged by fire. However, many people from all over the state wanted to preserve it. It took a long time. By 2012 it was completely restored. It is an important piece of Texas history.



Name _____

Pledge of Allegiance

Good citizens make a pledge to their state. When you say the pledge you are making a promise. The promise is to be loyal to your state. Complete the pledge by filling in the blanks. Use the word bank below. When you have finished, practice reciting the pledge with a partner.

Word Bank

Texas nation state indivisible

Texas Pledge

Honor the _____ flag;
I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas,
one _____ under God,
one and _____.

Choose a local landmark. Draw or paste a picture of the landmark in the box. Write one or two sentences. Explain the significance of the landmark to your community.

