

3rd Grade Social Studies

The TEKS Explained

2008-2009

Second Nine Weeks October 20 – December 19

Week 1: American Folk Tales and Legends – Tall Tales

TEKS 13B

- A tall tale is a story that has these features: a larger-than-life hero or main character; might be bigger or stronger or smarter than real people; hero solves problems in humorous or outrageous ways; major element is exaggeration.
- Read or listen to tall tales; retell the deeds of tall tale characters.
 - Paul Bunyan: giant logger/lumberjack; Babe the blue ox; Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the Northwest (*See p180 in social studies textbook.*)
 - Pecos Bill: cowboy from the Pecos River region of Texas; raised by coyotes; rode a mountain lion; rode a tornado; used a rattlesnake for a lasso. (*See pages 194-195 in social studies textbook and reading textbook-Volume 1.*)
- Identify examples of exaggeration in tall tales
- Understand the role of tall tales in shaping the culture of communities, the state and the nation:
 - Tall tales began in the 1800s as a way for pioneers to understand the greatness of the American west – the huge forests, deserts, mountains, and ferocious animals. The pioneers were attempting to conquer these elements, and that was a scary business. Tall tale heroes were also huge and larger-than-life.
 - Some heroes in tall tales were real people like Davy Crockett and Johnny Appleseed. Other tall tale characters were not real people. Characters included sea captains, loggers, railroad workers, cowboys, and even firefighters.
 - The tall tale “tellers” combined information about what was really happening at the time with wild tall tale fantasy. The setting in tall tales is important because it relates to the specific experience of people who lived in a particular place and during a specific time. For example, Paul Bunyan did great deeds in huge forests of a new land and logging camps of the Midwest. Pecos Bill stories occur in Texas and the Southwest, an area known for cowboys. John Henry’s feats took place during the rapid growth of the railroad.
- Locate on maps the places mentioned in tall tales.
- IFA 20-23, 34

**Week Two: Tall Tales (continued)
Voting and the National Election**

TEKS 13B
TEKS 10C

Continue with study of Tall Tales

- IFA 24A-24D

Voting and the National Election

- Identify and explain the importance of voting
 - Understand terms: election, vote, candidate, citizen
 - Understand that citizens vote to elect the President of the United States
 - Name the current President of the United States
 - Discuss leadership qualities
 - ✓ What makes a leader a good leader?
 - ✓ What traits does a president need in order to run a country?
- IFA 100, 33A

**Week Three: Voting and the National Election (continued)
Local Government**

TEKS 10C
TEKS 9ACE

Voting and the National Election

- Participate in a class, grade level, or campus mock election
- Discuss election process
- Discuss results of the national election

Local Government

- Understand and describe the basic structure of government in the local community (p391)
 - mayor and city council
 - ✓ mayor – the leader of the community
 - ✓ council – a group of people who make laws and rules for a community; work with mayor in deciding what local government should do
 - ✓ make local laws
 - ✓ hold meetings to listen to citizens

- Identify local government officials such as the mayor and police chief and explain how they are chosen (p391-395)
 - o mayor
 - ✓ the leader of the community
 - ✓ works with city council to decide what local government should do
 - ✓ elected by the citizens of the community
 - ✓ current mayor of Houston – Bill White
 - o city council
 - ✓ group of people who make laws and rules for a community
 - ✓ work with mayor in deciding what local government should do
 - ✓ elected by the citizens of the community
 - o police chief
 - ✓ runs the police department
 - ✓ hires police officers
 - ✓ selected by the mayor and city council
 - o fire chief
 - ✓ runs the fire department
 - ✓ hires firefighters
 - ✓ selected by the mayor and city council

- IFA 110-112, 39

- Identify services commonly provided by local governments (p384-386; 392-393)
 - Education
 - ✓ schools
 - ✓ libraries
 - Safety and Security
 - ✓ police department
 - ✓ fire department
 - ✓ protect people and property
 - Transportation
 - ✓ building and repairing roads
 - ✓ sidewalks and bike paths
 - ✓ buses and trains
 - Recreation (ways for members of a community to enjoy themselves)
 - ✓ parks
 - ✓ swimming pools
 - ✓ sports leagues

- Explain how local community government services are financed (p387)
 - People in a community pay taxes to the local government.
 - Fees are charged for some community services
 - ✓ swimming pools
 - ✓ sports leagues
 - ✓ trash pickup
 - some money from state and national governments

- Explain the importance of the consent of the governed to the functions of local government (p. 395)
 - consent of the governed: permission of the citizens (*Read and discuss "Consent of the People" on page 395.*)

- IFA 114-117, 119-120, 122, 48

Week Five: Thanksgiving and the Pilgrim Community TEKS 2AB, 12A

- Explain origin and significance of the celebration of Thanksgiving
 - Know that Thanksgiving is an annual holiday celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday in November.
 - Know and be able to tell the story of the Pilgrims and the *Mayflower* and the “first thanksgiving” (pages 122-123 in social studies textbook)

- Identify reasons the Pilgrims formed a community
 - wanted to separate from the Church of England
 - often faced persecution and unjust treatment
 - wanted to start a settlement of their own where they could worship as they pleased

- Describe how Pilgrims and other colonists adapted to or modified the physical environment
 - Because of all the old cornfields made by Indians, the Pilgrims did not have to clear the land of trees and rocks.
 - measured the land and gave a plot of land to each family, with larger families being given more land than smaller families
 - chopped down trees and sawed logs to build houses; steep roofs covered with a kind of straw called thatch; windows made of paper or cloth rubbed with fat to let some light in
 - had brought seeds with them; planted fields of wheat, peas, barley, and gardens of herbs and vegetables; only the garden vegetables like carrots, turnips, and onions came out well
 - had a difficult first year; food was scarce; faced freezing weather, disease, and hunger; nearly half of the settlers died
 - received help from Native Americans Samoset and Squanto

- Understand common characteristics of communities, past and present
 - Have students name common characteristics of communities, past and present, such as:
 - ✓ families
 - ✓ types of shelter
 - ✓ supply of food
 - ✓ leaders
 - ✓ laws
 - ✓ people who help other people
 - ✓ places to worship

- IFA 64, 66, 67, 70-72, 53

Week Six: Clara Barton and the Red Cross

TEKS 11BC

- Identify characteristics of good citizenship as exemplified by Clara Barton
 - born in Massachusetts on December 25, 1821
 - was taught at home by her brothers and sisters, who were much older
 - gained nursing experience by caring for one of her brothers, who was ill
 - became a teacher when she was 15
 - started her own school about fifteen years later
 - The number of students grew significantly, and town officials told Barton that the school had become too large to be managed by a woman – that a man would have to run it.
 - During the Civil War (1861-1865), Barton raised money to provide food and medical supplies for the soldiers.
 - She also served as a nurse and worked endless hours to help the soldiers.
 - earned the nickname “Angel of the Battlefield”
 - went to Europe to rest after the war, where she learned of the activities of the International Red Cross
 - When she returned to the United States, she worked long and hard to convince leaders to start a Red Cross organization here.
 - The American Red Cross was begun in 1881, and Clara Barton served as its president until 1904.
 - died in Maryland in 1912

- Identify examples of nonprofit and/or civic organizations and how they serve or served the common good
 - Understand terms: nonprofit, civic, common good
 - American Red Cross
 - ✓ a relief organization that provides supplies, medicine, food, and funds to people who are victims of war, natural disasters, disease epidemics, and famines
 - ✓ started by Clara Barton

- IFA 58

Week Seven: Review and Reteach for District Assessment #2

- IFA 63

- Compare and contrast celebrations such as Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Las Posadas
 - Christmas
 - ✓ December 25
 - ✓ important holiday for Christians around the world
 - ✓ celebrates the day Jesus Christ was born
 - ✓ Symbols include a decorated tree, ornaments, stars, mistletoe, gifts, candy canes, angels, holly, Santa Claus and others.
 - ✓ Books to read: *The Night Tree* by Eve Bunting; *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg; *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs; *The Night Before Christmas* by Clement Clarke Moore
 - Kwanzaa
 - ✓ celebrated for seven days from December 26 through January 1
 - ✓ a cultural holiday to recognize the cultural heritage shared by African Americans
 - ✓ seven basic principles (may be too abstract for children in primary grades): unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith
 - ✓ kinara: candleholder for Kwanzaa; seven candles (three red candles, three green candles, and a single black candle in the middle which is lit first); a new candle is lit each day, in alternating colors
 - ✓ Books to read: *Kwanzaa* by Denise M. Jordan; *It's Kwanzaa Time!* by Synthia Saint James
 - Las Posadas
 - ✓ December 16-24
 - ✓ Mexican holiday
 - ✓ celebrated with a re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth
 - ✓ *Posadas* is the Spanish word for "inn."
 - ✓ During the nine days before Christmas, groups of children carrying candles travel from house to house in their neighborhoods. People in each house tell them that "there is no room at the inn," until finally they are invited into a home or church holding a festive party.
 - ✓ The Las Posadas party features a piñata.

- Hanukkah
 - ✓ usually falls in December but is sometimes in late November
 - ✓ eight day Jewish holiday
 - ✓ celebrates a miracle: The Hebrews were victorious over Syria and recaptured the temple in Jerusalem. When the Jews rekindled the eternal fire in the temple, they had only enough oil to burn for one day. A miracle happened in that the oil burned for eight days.
 - ✓ the menorah
 - *symbolizes the miracle
 - *nine candles
 - *One candle is lit each night during the eight-day holiday. The ninth candle – in the middle – is used to light the other candles.
 - ✓ the dreidel game
 - *The dreidel is a four-sided top, and each side has a Hebrew letter on it – nun, gimmel, hay, or shin. These letters stand for the Hebrew words that mean “a great miracle happened there.”
 - *The players sit in a circle. Each player receives an equal number of tokens (buttons, nuts, beans, etc.) and puts five from his or her pile into the center.
 - *Everyone takes a turn spinning the dreidel. The letter on top when the dreidel stops spinning tells what to do: Nun – do nothing; Gimmel – take the center pile; Hay – Take half the center pile; Shin – return half of your pile to the center.
 - *Players who lose all their tokens are out. The last player with tokens is the winner.
 - ✓ Books to read: *Chanukah Lights Everywhere* by Michael J. Rosen; *Celebrating Chanukah Eight Nights* by Debbie Martinez.
- IFA 74-77, 79-81, 68