

Ancient Landscapes of South Texas: STAAR 2.0

World Geography, 9th grade

TEKS:

Process Standards: WG.21, WG.22, WG.23

Introduction to Physical Geography: WG.9(A)

Introduction to Human Geography: WG.1(A), WG.8(A)

Culture: WG.2(A), WG.5(A)

The United States & Canada: WG.1(A), WG.5(A), WG.8(A), WG.9(A), WG.16(A), WG.17(D)

Big Idea: Exploring the ancient landscapes of South Texas.

Objective:

Students will be able to identify and describe the ancient landscapes of South Texas, analyze various artifacts and geological formations, and understand the importance of these landscapes in shaping the region.

Lesson Duration:

90 minutes

Vocabulary

Landscape, Ancient Landscape, South Texas, Geological formations, Preservation, Region, Natural Features, Physical Features, Fossils

Materials:

- [Ancient Landscapes of South Texas Map](#)
- [Ancient Landscapes of South Texas site](#)
- [Ancient Landscapes of South Texas Nearpod](#)
- Supplemental - Ancient Landscapes Traveling Trunk, Projectile Point Immersive Poster, Ancient Landscapes Picture Book

Activity:

The lesson is web based in order to utilize technological tools that are fundamental to the STAAR redesign. Access to Nearpod and Google Slides for both the instructor and student are essential. The slides can either be disseminated by live participation or student paced, this gives the teacher versatility in delivering the lesson in class with immediate response and evaluation or to be assigned for homework. All the questions and activities embedded within the lesson will be collected individually for each student and sent to the teacher for immediate assessment.

Engage:

Slide 2 Photo Collection

Taken from the Introduction of Ancient Landscapes of South Texas

"We live in a poorly understood and often unjustifiably maligned corner of the United States. Our reality is quite different; starkly beautiful landscapes with a story that is second to none. Ancient landscapes surround us

but are invisible to most. When it comes to human perceptions of our broader natural landscape, it may seem that it is immutable and unchanging..We like to say the ancient landscape is 'hiding in plain sight' You just must know where to look and what to look for."

Guiding Questions

What is a landscape? What features are natural/physical and what represents human/cultural imprints? Identify characteristics that are contemporary and what do you see that are ancient.

Slide 4 Introduction Fill in the Blanks

Using a word bank, have students re-engage in the excitement of delving into the depths of time to discover details they may have never encountered before.

Slide 5 Draw it - Landscape

Prompt the students to draw characteristics of South Texas. Have them imagine describing South Texas to someone who is not from here, the goal is to produce an image of what makes South Texas unique.

Slide 6 Collaborative Board - Landscape

Allow the students to share characteristics of South Texas. This could be items they illustrated in Draw it or examples of natural/physical features and human/cultural characteristics.

Explore:

Slide 3 Ancient Landscapes Map

“The goal of this map is to explore the landscape of South Texas through time”

Guiding Questions

Identify the location of the map. What words would you use to describe the location? What makes this place unique? Would you consider this place a region, what makes it a region? What does the map show, how do you know what the symbols represent? How old is this place, has it always been the same?

Slide 7 La Villa Meteorite

Click on the title and image to be redirected to the UTRGV research on the artifact. Students will be able to analyze pictures and expository text to develop awareness of time and unique characteristics of South Texas.

Slide 9 Roma Sandstone

Slide 11 Catahoula Volcanic Ash

Slide 13 La Sal del Rey

Slide 15 South Texas Sand Sheet

Slide 17 Pleistocene Megafauna

Explain:

Slide 8 Draw It Meteorite Text

Using the highlighter tool, identify 3 sentences in the text that explains the dating of the meteorite.

Slide 9 Fill in the Blanks Roma Sandstone

Use the word bank to simulate in line text responses to complete the expository text.

Slide 12 Draw It Catahoula Volcanic Ash

Using the highlighter tool cite evidence from the text to recognize cause and effect relationships.

Slide 14 Quiz Sal del Rey

Read the text, answer a question with more than one correct answer - simulates multi select question types.

Slide 16 Fill in the Blanks South Texas Sand Sheet

Use the word bank to simulate in line text responses to complete the expository text.

Slide 18 Draw it Pleistocene Megafauna

Explain the type of animals from this time period and the location of their fossils.

Extend:

Slide 19 Drag and Drop South Texas Map

Make the connection between ancient artifacts and modern settlements using a tech tool that simulates drag and drop question types.

Slide 21 Matching Pairs

Pair ancient sites with their descriptions, simulating match table grid question types.

Slide 23 Poll

Close the lesson surveying the attitudes and perceptions of the students after they have learned more about the ancient characteristics of South Texas.

Evaluate:

Slide 20 Time to Climb

Answer 7 comprehension questions about the content of the lesson.

Slide 22 Open Ended Question

Evaluate the students comprehension and understanding of the lesson by collecting short constructed responses that seek to explain the meaning of text and the purpose of the ancient landscapes research to unearth artifacts that are “hiding in plain sight”.

*Lesson Technology and Question Types are intended to model process and evaluation skills necessary for STAAR 2.0. The purpose of the activity is to create place based World Geography practice questions aligned to the new state standardized test questions.

1. Inline choice
2. Hot Spot
3. Hot Text
4. Drag and Drop
5. Multipart
6. Match Table Grid
7. Multiselect
8. Short Constructed Response