



Thank you for subscribing to the TEA social studies newsletter.

This issue of the TEA social studies newsletter provides information on the following topics:

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Black History Month: February 2024

Each year, during February, we celebrate the history and cultural contributions of Black Americans in the United States. Students learn about the achievements, perspectives, struggles, and experiences of Black Americans throughout more than 400 years of American history. The TEA web page for [Black History Month](#) provides a variety of resources that can be used to honor Black History Month.

Social Studies Stakeholder Engagement Sessions: February 2024 **February Topic: Social Studies STAAR**

The social studies team at TEA is committed to enhancing opportunities for stakeholder engagement across the state of Texas. Social Studies Stakeholder Engagement Sessions allow the TEA social studies team to expand information sharing and interaction with stakeholders. Each session has a different informational focus and includes a fifteen-to-twenty-minute presentation from TEA staff, followed by an opportunity for general questions and discussion related to social studies. Stakeholder engagement sessions will be provided on two different days at two different times (during and outside of the school day) to provide stakeholders multiple opportunities to attend. The information shared will be the same in each meeting. All social studies stakeholders (parents, teachers, administrators, etc.) are invited to attend by registering below.

February Topic: Social Studies STAAR

Target Audience: Social Studies Stakeholders- Teachers, District Administrators, Campus Administrators, Education Service Center Specialists, Parents, Professional Organizations

Dates & Times

Monday, February 26th, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registration Link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJElduigrjSpH93pFYHDAChe99WiXsYarbcp>

Tuesday, February 27th, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Registration Link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErf-isrDkqEtz_TbvhutOPfwPZu8YFghH7

You can access TEA presentations from previous stakeholder engagement sessions on the TEA [social studies web page](#).

Presidents Day - February 19th, 2024

On the third Monday in February, we honor our first President, George Washington. The position of the holiday between the birthdays of Washington and Abraham Lincoln gave rise to the popular name of Presidents Day. While this holiday is officially named “Washington’s Birthday,” it is commonly referred to as “Presidents Day” and has become a day to honor all U.S. Presidents.

Educators may wish to explore selected documents and images from the [National Archives Catalog](#) related to Washington’s Birthday or visit the [Presidential Libraries and Museums](#) to view education resources and digital exhibits and artifacts collections related to other presidents.

Social Studies Timely Topic: Presidents from Texas

To support Texas social studies educators and stakeholders, the social studies newsletter will occasionally highlight a question and response focused on a timely social studies topic. This edition’s timely topic question is below.

Question: “Are there instructional resources for Presidents of the United States who were from Texas?”

Three United States presidents called the state of Texas home: Lyndon B. Johnson, George H. W. Bush, and George W. Bush. Texas is the only state to have three presidential libraries. Presidential libraries preserve history, facilitate research and education, and contribute to their community through public programs and special events.

The [LBJ Presidential Library](#) is located at The University of Texas in Austin, the [George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum](#) is located at Texas A&M University in College Station, and the [George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum](#) is located at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Each of the presidential libraries has online exhibits and resources you can access through their websites.

Instructional Materials Review and Adoption (IMRA)

TEA is seeking educators and subject-matter experts across Texas to serve as instructional materials reviewers for the new [IMRA review process](#).

Selected reviewers will earn extra income while making a statewide impact. Reviewers will work in small teams to conduct quality reviews and collaborate with other educators to produce ratings and reports for assigned reading language arts, phonics, and mathematics products.

If you or your colleagues want to participate in the IMRA review process, please [apply today!](#) To learn more about the IMRA process, [visit our website](#).

Texas Assessment Research Portal

The [Texas Assessment Research Portal](#) is a public portal designed for users to generate reports for summary state assessment data. Data can be viewed and compared by state, region, district or campus, and further broken down by demographic groups. The portal can be accessed with a desktop, laptop, or tablet. It is not optimized for mobile phones.

To learn more about the Texas Assessment Research Portal, please join us for the upcoming social studies stakeholder engagement session.

Texas Education Agency Releases Annual Report for 2023

The Texas Education Agency is pleased to announce the release of its 2023 Annual Report to the general public. Our intent is to shine light on our commitment to ensuring that every one of the more than five million public school students in Texas is prepared for success in college, a career or the military.

This comprehensive report provides a detailed overview of the state of public education in Texas, highlighting the initiatives and collaborative efforts that help ensure every student receives a high-quality education. The report also illustrates the progress and achievements taking place in public school systems across Texas. It also highlights key policies passed during the 88th Legislative Session that impact public school funding, curriculum standards, and school safety.

To view a full copy of the 2023 Annual Report, please visit the Texas Education Agency website at <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/annual-reports/annual-report>.

As a courtesy to our readers, the following additional information has been included.

Texas History Resource: The *Texas Almanac Teacher's Guide*

The Texas Almanac Teacher's Guide is a collection of lesson plans designed to accompany the Texas Almanac in the classroom. PDFs of each lesson are free to anyone. The Answer Key is not included in the online documents but is available for free by request.

These instructional suggestions and activities were written by current or former classroom teachers and represent a wealth of ideas for making use of the information provided by the Texas Almanac.

To learn more, go to [Almanac Teacher's Guide web page](#).