

“BLACK GOLD” IN TEXAS

Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. Gain understanding of the growth and development of the oil industry in Texas
2. Realize the economic impact of the oil industry in Texas
3. Use map reading skills to locate oil fields in Texas
4. Use information to create a product
5. Identify the contribution of Patillo Higgins

TEKS: SS 4.5A&B, 6A, 21A,B&C, 22A&D, 5.5A, 24A,B&C, 25A&D;
LA 4.23B, 24A,B&C, 5.23B, 24A&D

Materials: Internet access, PowerPoint capability

Vocabulary: gusher, wildcatter, fossil fuel, petroleum

Teaching Strategies:

1. Introduce lesson by asking students to brainstorm all the things they can think of that are made from oil or any petroleum product. They might be surprised to learn that plastics, tires, shoe polish, tape, luggage, antifreeze, football helmets, toothbrushes, and many other items are made from oil. And one 42-gallon barrel of oil produces 19.4 gallons of gasoline. See an extensive list at <http://www.ranken-energy.com/Products%20from%20Petroleum.htm>
2. Display the image of Spindletop, located at <http://www.spindletop.org/history/index.html> which spewed oil for nine days before being capped. Discuss the importance of this discovery.
3. Locate Beaumont on a classroom map of Texas or online.
4. Review the history of Spindletop using the online timeline and slideshow located at <http://www.spindletop.org/timeline/index.html>
5. Note that at that time a barrel of oil sold for 25 cents. You can check the current price, but as I write this lesson plan it is close to \$100 a barrel.
6. Divide the class into groups of four to research other aspects of the oil industry. This information will be collected to create a PowerPoint presentation called “Texas Black Gold.”
7. Possible subjects for the presentation include:
 - 1) The development of the major oil companies such as Texaco, Gulf Oil and Standard Oil,
 - 2) Oil spills such as BP or Exxon Valdez
 - 3) How oil gets from the well to the refinery
 - 4) Patillo Higgins and Anthony Lucas
 - 5) Graphic showing how much oil was produced in different segments of time in Texas

- 6) The importance of conservation – how much oil is produced, how much we use.
- 7) Major oil fields in Texas (north Texas, the Permian Basin, East Texas, offshore)
8. Possible sources include these museum websites:

[East Texas Oil Museum](#)

[Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig and Museum](#)

[Permian Basin Petroleum Museum](#)

[Texas Energy Museum](#)

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

9. Assign each group to produce four slides of information and pictures for the presentation.
10. When all slides have been compiled, allow one person from each group to present to the class as the slides come up. That student will present as if they were a news broadcaster, reporting on the event or subject researched. Other students will take notes, recording as many facts as possible from the broadcast.

Extension for G/T

Students will focus on what a fossil fuel is, as opposed to renewable energy. How is our society today trying to use less oil? Explore hybrid or electric cars, wind energy, etc.

Jeanne Wray, LRE Consultant