

IT'S VACATION TIME!

Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. Use geographic tools to locate major cities in Texas
2. Apply critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of sources including electronic technology.
3. Write descriptive paragraphs about places visited
4. Use research skills to collect data on a major city in Texas
5. Determine differences and similarities between cities of Texas

TEKS: SS 3.5A,B&C, 3.17A,B,C,D,E,F, 4.6A, 8B, 21A,B&C, 4.23A,C,D&E
5.6A, 24A,B&C, 25.A,C,D&E; LA 3.25B, 26A&B, fig 19D&E, 4.6A,
11A, 23B, 24A&B, fig 19D&E, 5.6A, 11A, 23B, 24A, fig 19D&E

Materials: Internet access, atlases, maps, resource materials, "It's Vacation Time!" sheet (attached), template for postcards (attached)

Vocabulary: destination, vacation, staycation (a vacation without leaving town)

Teaching Strategies:

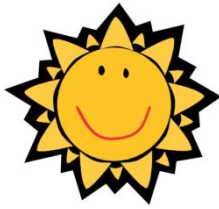
1. As students approach the beginning of summer, ask if any of them have vacation plans. Discuss fun places to go on vacation, and allow students to tell about any trips they have been on. Explain what a "staycation" is.
2. Ask students to show places they have visited on a map of Texas.
3. Tell students they will be planning a pretend vacation to a place of their choosing anywhere in Texas, as well as the Texas capital of Austin.
4. On a wall map, show students some major cities in Texas they might choose, such as Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston, El Paso, Amarillo, Lubbock, Galveston, and Brownsville. Smaller cities may be chosen as well. The city they choose must be at least 50 miles from where they live.
5. Along with their city of choice, each student will also visit the state capital of Austin, visiting the capitol building and other places in Austin, of their choosing.

6. Students will use an Internet source, such as Google maps, or an atlas to plan their route. They will determine:
 - a. how many miles it is from their home town to their destinations
 - b. how long it will take to get to each place
 - c. the date(s) they want to go
 - d. how long they will stay at each place
 - e. what towns they will pass through on their way
7. Using the Internet website of the city they have chosen, students will determine:
 - a. what the weather will be like
 - b. what sights they want to visit in the city, such as parks, museums, ballgames, amusement parks, etc.
 - c. be able to tell the similarities and differences between where they live and where they are visiting (population, region of TX, topography, etc.)
8. Use the sheet, "It's Vacation Time!" to record information. One of the destinations will be "Austin" chosen "because it is the capital of Texas." It may be the first or second destination, depending on a natural route between the hometown and the two destination cities.
8. After the trip is planned, students will write two postcards (templates included), one from the city they chose and one from Austin, describing their vacation. Students should use good descriptive writing to tell about their trip, what they saw/did, with as many details as possible.
9. (Option) Students could also plan a "staycation," listing all the interesting places to go and things to see within a 50-mile radius of their home.

Extension for G/T:

Students will investigate the cost of the trip, including travel, meals, and hotel expenses.

Jeanne Wray
LRE Consultant
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Name

It's Vacation Time!

Destination #1 _____

Why did you choose this location? _____

How many miles is your home from destination #1? _____

How long will it take you to drive there? _____

What towns will you pass through as you drive to this place?

How long will you stay there? From _____ till _____

While you're there, what fun activities do you have planned?

This city is like my hometown because _____

This city is different from my hometown because _____



Destination #2 _____

Why did you choose this location? _____

How many miles is it to this location? _____

How long will it take you to get there? _____

What towns will you pass through as you drive there?

How long will you stay there? From _____ till _____

While you're there, what fun activities do you have planned?

This city is like my hometown because _____

This city is different from my hometown because _____

Place Stamp Here

Postcard template by www.craftideas4kids.com

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