

# A REVIEW OF THE DECADE—WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

**Learning Objectives:** The students will:

1. Identify key events of the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
2. Evaluate key events of the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**TEKS/TAKS:** 8.30 A, B&E; US.24 B, C&G; (NEW TEKS: 8.29 A,B&E; US 29 B, C&G)

**Materials Needed:** List of key events of the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century; sheets of butcher paper and markers; access to the Internet for necessary research

**Teaching Strategy:**

1. Brainstorm with the students a list of key events they remember occurring in the past decade. Stretch their thinking by having them think of events from the following categories: political events (both national and international); economic events, social and cultural events, and natural disasters.
2. Place the students in small groups of four and give each group a list of events as identified on the cover of the December 6, 2010 issue of *Time* magazine, a sheet of butcher paper, and markers. Have them make note of how many they identified on their original brainstorming list.
3. Instruct the students to review the events and then place them in the following categories on the butcher paper:
  - a. Political Events
  - b. Economic Events
  - c. Social and Cultural Events
  - d. Natural Events and Disasters

Note: The students should research any event with which they are unfamiliar before placing in the appropriate category.

4. After they have placed all the events in the category they think it belongs, they should decide as a group the event in each category that they feel most defined the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. After circling this event, they should research to find the following information about the event: Date, location, short summary of the event and its short and long term effects. Finally, they should summarize the reasons for their choice of each category's most significant event of the decade.

- After the categorization and analysis is complete, each group should present their findings for the top event in each category. At the end of the presentations, the teacher could have the class come to a consensus of the four top events.

**Top Events of the Decade as Defined on the Cover of *Time*,  
December 6, 2010**

- |                                       |   |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Bush v. Gore</i>                | 24. Qusay and Uday Hussein Killed                       | 42. Illegal Immigration Debates      |
| 2. Elian Gonzalez Custody Dispute     | 25. U.S. Invasion of Iraq                               | 43. Mudslides in the Philippines     |
| 3. Firestone Tire Recall              | 26. Bush: Mission Accomplished                          | 44. Nicholas Sarkozy Elected         |
| 4. Y2K                                | 27. September 11 Report                                 | 45. Saddam Convicted                 |
| 5. Milosevic Toppled                  | 28. Lance Armstrong Wins 7 <sup>th</sup> Tour de France | 46. The Surge                        |
| 6. AOL-Time Warner Merger             | 29. London Bombings                                     | 47. Global Warming                   |
| 7. Vladimir Putin Elected             | 30. War on Terror                                       | 48. Sports Doping Scandals           |
| 8. DOTCOM Bubble Bursts               | 31. U.K. Foot-Mouth Crisis                              | 49. Chinese Export Boom              |
| 9. USS Cole Bombing                   | 32. Columbia Shuttle Disaster                           | 50. Chinese Earthquake               |
| 10. Soaring Oil Prices                | 33. Florida Hurricanes                                  | 51. Beijing Olympics                 |
| 11. <i>United States v. Microsoft</i> | 34. Abu Ghraib Scandal                                  | 52. Virginia Tech Shootings          |
| 12. Verdict Against Tobacco Industry  | 35. Asian Tsunami                                       | 53. Terri Schiavo                    |
| 13. Wall Street Tanks                 | 36. Iran's Nuclear Program                              | 54. Russia Georgia War               |
| 14. Beltway Sniper                    | 37. Hurricane Katrina                                   | 55. Obama Elected President          |
| 15. ILOVEYOU Computer Virus           | 38. Papal Transition                                    | 56. Sarah Palin Runs as VP Candidate |
| 16. Shark Attacks                     | 39. Scandals in Congress                                | 57. Michael Jackson Dies             |
| 17. Sydney Olympics                   | 40. South Korea Announces Human Cloning                 | 58. Fort Hood Rampage                |
| 18. Afghanistan                       | 41. Rumsfeld Resigns                                    | 59. Global Financial Crisis          |
| 19. 911                               |   | 60. Mumbai Terrorism                 |
| 20. Total Solar Eclipse               |   | 61. Bernie Madoff Ponzi Scheme       |
| 21. SARS                              |   |                                      |
| 22. Enron Bankruptcy                  |   |                                      |
| 23. Homeland Security Act             |   |                                      |

62. Fidel Castro  
Resigns
63. Auto-Industry  
Woes
64. BP Oil Spill
65. Disaster in  
Darfur
66. Mortgage  
Crisis
67. Haiti Quake
68. Swine Flu
69. Health Care  
Reform
70. GOP Wins the  
House
71. Virginia Tech  
Shootings
72. IMF Bails Out  
Greece
73. Chilean Miners
74. Pakistani  
Floods
75. Sonia  
Sotomayor  
Appointed to  
Supreme Court