



LA SALLE'S FATEFUL SHIPWRECK

Learning Objectives: The students will...

1. Understand the significance of the exploration of La Salle on Texas history.
2. Use the skills of search to find information on La Salle's expedition.
3. Create a new game using the information about La Salle.

TEKS: SS 4.2A, 4.2B

Materials Needed: Internet access, index cards, Scavenger Hunt handout, markers (M&Ms, beans, small sticky notes, etc.).

Vocabulary: archeology, exploration, expedition, excavate

Teaching Strategy:

1. Introduce the lesson by asking students what they think about space exploration—why it is necessary, what are the benefits, risks, etc.
2. Review the exploration of Texas by La Salle by reading from text or library book.
3. Explain to students that they are going to go on a Scavenger Hunt to find more information about La Salle and his famous ship, La Belle, which archeologists have found and excavated portions of.
4. Divide the class into groups of three. Each group will try to be the first to locate all the information asked for on the Scavenger Hunt handout.
5. Allow time for students to locate the information from online sources or books. Possible sources include: www.thc.state.tx.us/belle , www.texasbeyondhistory.net/belle.
6. Using the information they have discovered, students will create a bingo game, writing the answers on index cards, and listing the clues on notebook paper.
7. Teacher will collect all bingo cards and clues and compile a class game for the students to play on another day.
8. To play the Bingo
 - a. Distribute 19 cards per student.
 - b. Students should arrange the cards randomly, forming five rows across and four down, with a free space in the center.
 - c. Give every student enough markers (beans, M&M's, etc.) for their cards.
 - d. As the teacher reads the clues, students will mark their responses.
 - e. The first student to "bingo" will be awarded a small prize.

Extension for Gifted/Talented:

Students will create a want ad, soliciting people to join La Salle's expedition. Students should use persuasive language to try to convince fellow explorers to join the group.

LA SALLE SCAVENGER HUNT

Search books and internet sites to locate the following information:

1. What was the name of La Salle's ship that has been excavated? _____
2. How many ships were included in the expedition? _____
3. How many people were on all the ships together? _____
4. What was the name of the supply ship that sank? _____
5. Who was the King of France who gave La Salle permission to make the trip?

6. What was La Salle looking for on this expedition? _____
7. When did the *Belle* shipwreck occur? _____
8. What is the name of the bay where the shipwreck occurred? _____
9. What fort did La Salle and his group establish? _____
10. What items were found on the *Belle* when it was excavated?

11. What is the name of the creek where the fort was located?

12. What Native American tribe was hostile to La Salle's group?

13. How did La Salle die? _____
14. Define excavate: _____
15. Define expedition: _____
16. Define exploration: _____
17. When was La Salle born? _____
18. How old was he when he died? _____
19. What south Texas city is closest to where La Salle was shipwrecked? _____

LA SALLE SCAVENGER HUNT ANSWER KEY

1. What was the name of La Salle's ship that has been excavated? La Belle
2. How many ships were included in the expedition? Four
3. How many people were on all the ships together? 300
4. What was the name of the supply ship that sank? Aimable
5. Who was the King of France who gave La Salle permission to make the trip? King Louis XIV
6. What was La Salle looking for on this expedition? Mississippi River
7. When did the *Belle* shipwreck occur? Early in 1686
8. What is the name of the bay where the shipwreck occurred? Matagorda Bay
9. What fort did La Salle and his group establish? Fort St. Louis
10. What items were found on the *Belle* when it was excavated? Beads, canon, a Jesuit ring, other correct answers
11. What is the name of the creek where the fort was located? Garcitas Creek
12. What Native American tribe was hostile to La Salle's group? Karankawas
13. How did La Salle die? Murdered by one of his men
14. Define "excavate." To uncover by digging
15. Define "expedition." A trip made for a special purpose, like to explore
16. Define "explore." To travel for the purpose of discovery
17. When was La Salle born? 1643
18. How old was he when he died? 44
19. What south Texas city is closest to where La Salle was shipwrecked? Corpus Christi