

Individual Work Product

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Appointed by Chairman Aaron Kinsey and Member LJ Francis

This document represents my Individual Work Product as of February 20, 2026.

As a Content Advisor, I understand it is my responsibility to advise on the content of the potential Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Social Studies based on Texas law and the sequence (subjects, grade levels, and time periods), content percentages, and suggested edits as determined by the State Board of Education and Work Groups A.

For grades K-2, 8, and High School, I defer to the Consensus Document overview and recommendations from Content Advisors Hutchinson, Frazier, Randall, Simon, Koons, and Barton.

For grades 3-7, I submit this suggested potential content bank. These content ideas are raw material for potential TEKS and are not exhaustive. They are also only potential content suggestions.

The only editorial comment I wish to share at this point respects the opposing talking point regarding the quantity of content.

I will make no secret of what has become increasingly obvious: that the civic and historical knowledge of American students has reached an all-time low. This is an indictment not of students nor of teachers, but of the unhelpful expectations states have given teachers and the preparation they've received that has been largely bereft of content knowledge. The *status quo* at the state level has failed.

The shift to content-rich standards, therefore, requires that the standards be longer and lengthier for two reasons. First, content takes more time to articulate in the written word than skills do. Second, teachers cannot be expected to teach and have their students tested on everything about a given content point; that would be both impossible and unfair to teachers and students alike. Therefore, content-rich standards need greater specificity, not to multiple quantity but to limit their scope to something manageable, measurable, and testable, demystifying what students are to know and teachers to teach, at minimum. This also results in a longer document with more words, but it does not translate to more instructional time per se. Classical charter schools, for example, teach more than this proposed content using the same time restrictions that all Texas public schools must use.

In brief then, shifting to content-rich standards is a monumental and revolutionary shift. Attempting to make a comparison in quantity of content is not comparing apples-to-apples, but apples-to-oranges.

Suggested Potential Content Bank for Writing TEKS

3rd Grade: Pre-History to 500

KEY TOPIC: RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS AND CONNECTIONS TO AMERICA AND TEXAS

- Location on a map:
 - The seven continents, five oceans, and the Mediterranean Sea.
 - Fertile Crescent, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Mesoamerica.
 - Nile and Tigris-Euphrates rivers.
- Ways to learn about the past.
 - How archaeologists study artifacts to learn about the earliest peoples.
 - How the written words of people living in a time period are called primary sources and serve as evidence about the past.
- Migrations of early peoples from Africa to Europe, Asia, and the Americas and Texas.
 - How people live in a hunter-gatherer society.
 - Locations of the main regions of Texas, including East Texas, Blackland Prairie, Coastal Plains, South Texas, West Texas, the Panhandle, Hill Country, and Trans-Pecos.
 - The locations on a map of the Beringia Land Bridge and migration routes.
- Traits and contributions from civilizations within the Fertile Crescent.
 - Mesopotamian inventions and innovations during the Agricultural Revolution, including irrigation systems, wheat farming along rivers, and the building of ziggurats as polytheistic temples.
 - The development of markets and trade.
 - The use of slavery.
 - The creation of written law of rules and consequences as demonstrated by the Code of Hammurabi.
 - The U.S. and Texas Constitutions are written laws.

- The creation of the Phoenician alphabet that used letters as symbols for sounds.
 - The Phoenician alphabet is the origin of the Greek, Latin, and English alphabet used today in Texas and America.
- Traits and contributions from ancient Egypt.
 - The invention of papyrus and hieroglyphic writing.
 - Use of slavery against the Israelites.
 - The complete rule of the pharaohs.
 - The rule of the pharaohs is an examples of the kind of unlimited government the American Founders believed America should avoid.
 - The pyramids of Giza and obelisks as ways to honor rulers.
 - The Washington Monument honoring George Washington and the San Jacinto Monument honoring those who fought in Texas' Battle of San Jacinto are both modeled on the Egyptian obelisk.

KEY TOPIC: MESOAMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS AND CONNECTIONS TO AMERICA AND TEXAS

- Clovis culture.
 - First discovered near Clovis, New Mexico.
 - Use of fluted spear points and bone and ivory needles.
- The Poverty Point Complex.
 - One of the earliest towns in North America.
 - Use of large earthworks and trade networks.
- Olmec and Maya civilization in the Yucatán and Central America.
 - The building of pyramids and temples for religion and community life.
 - Use of song, dance, storytelling, and writing.
 - The study of astronomy to understand the stars and plan farming and calendars.
 - The civilization of Teotihuacan.
- Traits and contributions of early human civilizations in Texas.
 - The Gault Site in Williamson County, Texas as one of the oldest locations of human settlement in the present-day United States.
 - The White Shaman rock art site in the lower Pecos River valley.

- Lithics and worked stone projectile points used to hunt mammoths and other large animals.
- How geography and the availability of water had shaped the development of the Caddo, Karankawa, Coahuiltecan, and Ancestral Pueblo in what is now Texas.
 - Sources of food for consumption and trade.
 - Farming corn, beans, and squash in fertile river valleys.
 - Hunting buffalo and deer on the plains.
 - Fish and alligators on the coast.
 - Gathering cactus roots cooked in burned rock middens.
 - The use of slavery through captive-taking.
 - How each group solved problems of scarcity in their region.
 - Shelters including grass houses in river valleys, tipis on the plains, and adobe dwellings in deserts.
 - The use of natural resources to make homes, tools, clothing, and other necessities.
- Systems of leadership and political organization among the Caddo, Karankawa, Coahuiltecan, and Ancestral Pueblo in what is now Texas.
 - Caddo chiefs in farming villages.
 - Karankawa family leaders along the coast.
 - Coahuiltecan bands.
 - Ancestral Pueblo councils in specialized buildings like kivas in desert farming communities.
- How the name Texas comes from the Caddo word Tejas, meaning “friend” or “ally.”

KEY TOPIC: ANCIENT ISRAEL AND CONNECTIONS TO AMERICA AND TEXAS

- Location on a map:
 - Ancient Israel and Judea.
 - The Jordan River.
 - Jerusalem.
- The importance of the Holy Land as the crossroads of the three continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe.

- Influential ancient Hebrew narratives found in the Hebrew Bible or the Old Testament.
 - The story of Hebrew slavery in Egypt.
 - African American spirituals often referenced the story of Hebrew enslavement and freedom.
 - The Ten Commandments and the laws of the Torah.
 - The idea about certain choices being right or wrong influenced American ideas about laws.
 - The Hebrew story of being a chosen people by God for a specific purpose with a promised land.
 - The Puritans and other peoples moving to North America often saw themselves as a chosen people headed for the promised land of America.
- Influential ancient Hebrew beliefs and their influence.
 - Rejection of polytheism and the development of belief in monotheism, or one God, instead.
 - The value of human beings as made in the image of God.
 - The idea of unchanging right and wrong applied equally to all people.
- The roles of ancient Hebrew leaders and their influence.
 - Abraham as the Father of Israel.
 - The religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam practiced by many Americans all trace their origins back to Abraham.
 - Moses who led the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery.
 - Moses was a main figure of inspiration and encouragement for African American held in slavery in America and Texas.
 - David who was considered a just ruler who loved God and Solomon who built the Temple.

KEY TOPIC: ANCIENT GREECE AND CONNECTIONS TO AMERICA AND TEXAS

- Location on a map:
 - Greece, the Peloponnesian Peninsula, Sparta, and Athens.
 - How mountains and seas led to independent Greek city-states, each called a *polis*, including Athens and Sparta.
 - The English word “politics” as used in America and Texas today comes from the Greek *polis*.

- How Greece's geography as a peninsula with islands led to ships trading across the Mediterranean Sea, spreading goods, ideas, languages, and stories.
- Scientific and cultural contributions from the ancient Greeks.
 - Astronomy, mathematics, and storytelling, including the Trojan War, Odysseus, and belief in polytheistic gods.
 - Architecture as exemplified by the Parthenon.
 - Structures like the Parthenon inspired the Lincoln Memorial.
 - Lifelike sculpture as displayed in the Discus Thrower and athletics in the Olympics.
 - Americans and Texans continue to compete in the modern Olympics today.
 - The Greek alphabet, writing, and spread of Greek ideas and culture in the Mediterranean world and the Italian Peninsula.
 - The Greek alphabet is the source of the English alphabet used in America and Texas today.
- Ancient Greek historical events and their influence.
 - The Battle of Thermopylae where the Three-Hundred Spartans fought the Persians.
 - The Battle of the Alamo and the Texan defenders is often compared to the Battle of Thermopylae for their similarities in being outnumbered and fighting to the last man.
 - The conquests of Alexander the Great and his promotion of learning through the Great Library of Alexandria.
 - Public libraries are a tradition continued in America and Texas.
- Greek ideas about rules and government and their influence on America and Texas government.
 - The freedoms and responsibilities of citizenship, practice of democracy, and the rule of law instead of the rule of one man.
 - Self-government where the people makes laws for themselves.
 - Juries where someone accused of breaking the law is judged by his or her neighbors.
 - The separation of powers where no one group of people have all the power in government.

KEY TOPIC: ANCIENT ROME AND CONNECTIONS TO AMERICA AND TEXAS

- Location on a map.
 - The Italian Peninsula, the Alps Mountains, and Rome.
 - The furthest extents of the Roman Empire.
- The role of the Alps Mountains for defense and the Mediterranean Sea for trade in the growth of Rome.
- Influential ancient Roman historical events and stories.
 - Roman myths including Romulus and the founding of Rome and the story of Brutus and the founding of the Republic.
 - The Roman names of Greek mythical gods are the source of English planet names Jupiter, Mars, and Venus and that many English month names are named after Roman gods as in Mars for March.
 - Cincinnatus who left a comfortable life to defend his country and gave up unlimited power.
 - George Washington is called the American Cincinnatus for making similar choices as Cincinnatus.
 - Julius Caesar' and Augustus' transformation of the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire.
 - The American month of July is named after Julius Caesar and August after Augustus.
- Roman contributions to civilization.
 - The architectural features arches, domes, and stadiums as exemplified by the Colosseum and Pantheon.
 - Roman architecture inspired the architecture of the U.S. and Texas capitols and the Jefferson Memorial.
 - Engineering innovations in aqueducts and road systems.
 - The Latin language.
 - Latin remains the universal language in science, medicine, and law.
 - Latin contributed many words to English used in America and Texas today, including the motto *E Pluribus Unum* on the Great Seal of the United States.
 - Latin is the origin language of Spanish.

- Roman contributions to government.
 - Republicanism in which citizens elect their neighbors to represent them in making laws.
 - America and Texas are both republics.
 - The use of the Senate.
 - The Senate is still a group of lawmakers in the United States and Texas.
 - Citizenship with certain freedom and responsibilities and the importance of civic virtue.
 - The American and Texan founders believed civic virtue and the responsibilities of citizenship were important for the preservation of freedom.
- Influential aspects of Christianity that began under Roman rule and later influenced American and Texan laws and traditions.
 - Jesus of Nazareth as the founder of Christianity.
 - Jesus' teachings to treat others the way you want to be treated and to love your neighbor encouraged kindness, forgiveness, and helping others in American and Texan culture.
 - The popular American celebration of the holiday of Christmas or "Christ's Mass" remembers the birth of Jesus and the gifts of the Wise Men.
 - Christians faced persecution and martyrdom due to all-powerful Roman rulers who did not allow religious freedom.
 - Christian ideas about the value of every individual, doing what is right, and showing compassion to others.
 - Christian ideas about how to treat others helped shape American beliefs about equality, rights, and treating people with dignity.
- How the Romans destroyed the Second Jewish Temple in AD 70, forcing many Jews to leave their homeland and settle in places around the world.
- The spread of Christianity during the Roman Empire and its legalization by Emperor Constantine.
 - The popular American tradition of gift-giving at Christmas and the figure of Santa Claus is based on the bishop Nicholas of Myra, who attended the Council of Nicaea overseen by Emperor Constantine.

- How the Western Roman Empire weakened and was eventually conquered by invading barbarian tribes.

Suggested Potential Content Bank for Writing TEKS

4th Grade: 500-1500

KEY TOPIC: THE MIDDLE AGES IN ASIA, AFRICA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST AND CONNECTIONS TO AMERICA AND TEXAS

- The origins and spread of Islam.
 - Muhammad as the founding prophet of Islam and Quran as the holy book.
 - Spread of Islam through wars of conquest called *jihad* across Arabia, the Holy Land, Asia, Africa, and Spain.
 - How Spanish architecture was influenced by Islamic arches and geometric designs from places like the Great Mosque of Córdoba after the Muslim conquest of what is now Spain.
 - These styles can be seen in Spanish missions in California, New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas.
- How trade routes moved silk, salt, gold, and paper across regions via the Silk Road, Trans-Saharan caravans, and Indian Ocean sea routes.

KEY TOPIC: THE MIDDLE AGES IN EUROPE AND CONNECTIONS TO AMERICA AND TEXAS

- Location on a map:
 - The Alps and Pyrenees mountains and the Sahara and Arabian deserts.
 - The Baltic and North seas and the Danube River
 - The present-day countries of Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and Israel.
- Changes in Western Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire.
 - The crumbling of Roman roads, aqueducts, and buildings.
 - One of the main service roles of American and Texas governments is the maintenance of roads and water utilities.
 - Declines in trade and prosperity and loss of law and order.

- The role of law and order in America and Texas for encouraging prosperity.
- The role of the Catholic Church in the Middle Ages.
 - Monasteries as the centers of new towns and culture, including the monks' preservation of ancient texts by copying them by hand.
 - The Spanish missions would later bring the monastery model to Texas.
 - Popular celebrations in the American calendar include Christmas, Easter, St. Valentine's Day (February 14), St. Patrick's Day (March 17), and the Eve of All Saints' Day (Halloween).
 - Christian missionaries to pagan tribes in what is now Germany.
 - Developing Romanesque art and architecture.
 - This art style would later become the Spanish mission style that influences Texas architecture.
- Important peoples and leaders in the Middle Ages.
 - The conversion to Christianity of the Franks under King Clovis.
 - How the Franks under Charles Martel halted the spread of Islam in Western Europe and reclaimed what is now France.
 - The creation of Charlemagne's Holy Roman Empire, the revival of law and order, and the beginning of schools at monasteries and cathedrals.
 - Leif Erickson who was the first European to reach North America.
- Viking raids across Europe along rivers and coastlines, death, and enslavement of Christians and Slavs.
 - English day names used in America and Texas today come from Norse gods and goddesses, including Tuesday from Tyr, Wednesday from Woden, Thursday from Thor, and Friday from Freya.
 - The English word "slave" comes from the capture of Slavic people (Slavs) in Eastern Europe by Viking raiders and Muslim conquests.
- The practice of feudalism and its effects.
 - A hierarchy where nobles and knights owned large tracts of land while peasants worked in return for protection and the meeting of their basic needs.
 - English common law is a system where judges looked at earlier decisions, called precedents, to help make fair and consistent rulings.
 - American and Texas law continue the tradition of precedents.
 - How the Magna Carta limited the English king's power, asserted the rule of law where no one is above the law, not even the ruler, and continued the tradition of written law.
 - The Magna Carta influenced English law and then the U.S. Constitution's limits on government power and protection of rights.

- Castles built in strategic locations including along rivers, hills, and trade routes with walls, moats, and strategic locations for defense.
 - Similar walled fortifications are modeled by the U.S. military, including the original fort at West Point, New York.
- Chivalry as a code of honor for knights that emphasized courage, loyalty, helping others, and defending the vulnerable.
- Ways populations, towns, and culture developed during the Middle Ages. [H, E, C]
 - The new innovations and inventions of the watermill, windmill, iron plough, and crop rotation.
 - Similar technologies would later be in use in America and Texas.
 - The construction of Gothic-style cathedrals like Notre Dame Cathedral with stained glass windows.
 - Gothic cathedrals would later inspire the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. and many neo-gothic churches throughout America and Texas.
 - The founding of cathedral schools and universities.
 - American and Texas colleges can be traced back to the these colleges of the Middle Ages.
- The story of the Crusades.
 - The initial Christian reclaiming of Jerusalem and the eventual Muslim victory.
 - The Christian reconquest called the *Reconquista* of southern Iberia (Spain and Portugal) under the leadership of Castile, Aragon, and Portugal.
 - The introduction of Arabic numbers and Greek and Islamic learning into Europe as effects of the Crusades.
 - Arabic numbers are used in America and Texas today.
- The Black Death and depopulation of Europe.

KEY TOPIC: INDIANS IN THE AMERICAS AND TEXAS

Location on a map of the Americas.

- The Andes, Appalachian, and Rocky Mountains.
- The Great Lakes and the Amazon, Mississippi, and Rio Grande rivers.
- Mexico, Texas, the Yucatan Peninsula, and the Caribbean Sea.
- The Maya in the Yucatan Peninsula.

- Pyramids at Chichén Itzá and the city of Tikal.
- The use of glyph writing and the Mayan calendar system.
- Influence of Mayan food on modern Texas culture, including corn, beans, and chocolate.
- The beginnings and growth of the Inca empire.
 - Cuzco and the stone city of Machu Picchu.
 - Incan military conquests through South America’s Pacific Coast and Andes Mountains, including the Incan empire and the *mit’a* system of slave labor.
 - Innovations including *quipus* (knotted strings) for record keeping, terrace farming, and system of roads for communication and regional trade.
- The beginnings and growth of the Aztec empire.
 - The Toltec in Tula who built pyramids with warrior statues for sacrifices to their gods.
 - The legend of the eagle eating a serpent and the founding of Tenochtitlán on an island in Lake Texcoco.
 - The Aztecs in Tenochtitlán, including *chinampas* (floating gardens) to supplement scarce farmland, massive temple complexes, and record-keeping.
 - The Aztec conquest and slavery of neighboring tribes.
- That many Texans are descended from the peoples of Mexico and South America and that their cultural heritage influences Texas culture today, including foods, festivals (*dia de los Muertos*), and language borrowings (*guajolote* vs. *pavo*).
- The Mississippian Culture in North America.
 - Cahokia and other towns.
 - Mound Builder cultures across what would become the eastern United States.
 - Extensive trade networks.
- *Please see other Texas recommendations from fellow Content Advisor, Dr. Donald Frazier.*

KEY TOPIC: THE RENAISSANCE AND CONNECTIONS TO AMERICA AND TEXAS

- Main traits of the Renaissance in the larger towns following the Black Death.
 - How the word “renaissance” means “rebirth,” as in the restoring of classical Greek and Roman ideas of freedom, self-government, and the classical style of art as modeled by Raphael’s painting *The School of Athens*.

- Leonardo da Vinci, who combined work in art (*Mona Lisa*), science (studying the human body), and invention (designs for flying machines).
 - The ideal of the “Renaissance man” compared to American Founders Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.
- Great works of painting, sculpture, and architecture by Donatello, Michaelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and Raphael.
 - The White House and other American government buildings draw on Renaissance architecture and interior classical paintings.

KEY TOPIC: COLUMBUS AND THE BEGINNING OF EXPLORATION

- The causes of the Age of Exploration that led to the discovery of America and Texas.
 - The Muslim conquest of Constantinople by the Ottoman Empire that closed off Europe from the Silk Road and trade with Asia.
 - Desires for wealth and fame for new monarchs and explorers, including Ferdinand and Isabella in Spain after the reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula.
 - Scientific innovations of the caravel ship, the compass, and cannon.
- The voyages of Christopher Columbus that helped to discover America and Texas.
 - Columbus’s mistaken but daring theory that ships could reach Asia relatively quickly by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean.
 - Columbus’s claiming of the land for Spain, the spread of Christianity, and his alliances and conflicts with different Indian tribes.
 - How Americans honor Columbus through Columbus Day (October 12) and place names, including the District of Columbia.
 - Amerigo Vespucci, a native of Florence, Italy, sailed for Portugal and Spain and sailed along the coast of the Americas which led map makers to identify these new lands by his name—America.

Suggested Potential Content Bank for Writing TEKS

5th Grade: 1500-1800

KEY TOPIC: REFORMATIONS, SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION AND THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND CONNECTIONS TO AMERICA AND TEXAS

- The causes and events of the Protestant Reformation.
 - Martin Luther and the Ninety-Five Theses.
 - Disagreements between governments and the Pope that encouraged people to question both religious and political authority.
 - The American colonists continued this tendency to question religious and political authority.
 - How Johannes Gutenberg's invention of the printing press allowed the ideas of the Reformation to spread quickly.
 - The spread of ideas by printing press was a tradition continued by the American founders when seeking independence.
- The effect of the Protestant Reformation.
 - Christian denominations continued to disagree and separate from each other.
 - Plymouth was founded by Separatist-Puritan (Pilgrim), Massachusetts by Puritans, and southern American colonies were founded by Anglicans.
 - Political leaders of different religions fought each other in wars.
 - Disagreements over religious freedom led to migration to America.
 - Catholics founded Maryland and then promised religious freedom to all Christians.
- The most important discoveries of the Scientific Revolution.
 - Nicolaus Copernicus' sun-centered model of the universe and Galileo Galilei's invention of the telescope.
 - Francis Bacon's description of the scientific method.
 - Isaac Newton's observations about gravity.
- Technological improvements that promoted economic development during the Scientific Revolution.
 - Transportation innovations in turnpikes, canals, and lighthouses.
 - Building innovations in cement and glassware.
 - Crop rotation.

KEY TOPIC: EXPLORATION AND EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN AMERICA

- The arrival of Spanish *conquistadors* nine years after Christopher Columbus's final voyage.

- Juan Ponce de Leon and the discovery of Florida.
- The defeat of Montezuma and the Aztecs by Hernán Cortés and the Tlaxcala Indians.
- The defeat of the Incas by Francisco Pizarro and the Huancas Indians and the later defeat of Pizarro.
- Rule in the Americas under the Spanish Empire, including in present-day Texas. [H, E]
 - The founding of New Spain and Mexico City on the ruins of Tenochtitlán.
 - The Spanish *encomienda* system for governing and farming.
 - The inhumane treatment of Indians by governors and efforts by Bartolomé de Las Casas to protect the Indians.
 - That many Texans are descended from the peoples of Mexico and South America who are descended from Native and Spanish ancestors.
- The Pueblo Revolt in 1680.
 - How American Indians were becoming more powerful, and trade with other European powers threatened Spanish control.
 - How European technology, especially horses, firearms, and steel began to circulate freely among the native peoples who began to threaten the Spanish for control of the region that is now Texas and New Mexico.
 - How the revolt was the only successful large American Indian revolt against Spanish rule, in which the Pueblo people temporarily drove the Spanish out of New Mexico.
- The Columbian Exchange between the Americas and Europe and its influence on Texas culture.
 - Cattle, horses, timothy grass, sugar, tomatoes, and tobacco.
 - Gold, silver, and precious metals.
 - Diseases to which American Indians had not developed resistance, including smallpox and its killing of millions of Indians.
 - French fur trading following the explorations of René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle.
- The practice of slavery in the Spanish and Portuguese empires.
 - The roles of European traders and African tribal leaders in capturing and selling Africans into slavery.
 - The inhuman treatment and deaths of African slaves on the Middle Passage in the Transatlantic Slave Trade.
 - The experiences of New World slaves, most of whom were taken to South America and the Caribbean islands as part of the Triangle Trade.

KEY TOPIC: EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENTS IN TEXAS

- *Please see recommendations from fellow Content Advisor, Dr. Donald Frazier.*

KEY TOPIC: TRADE AND THE SPREAD OF IDEAS

- The growth of the Ottoman Empire.
 - How Muslim conquest of Constantinople and rule of Suleiman the Magnificent converted the Hagia Sophia to the Grand Mosque and made the city a center for Islamic culture and government.
 - The Ottoman Empire's role in trade between Europe and Asia and how its trade restrictions encouraged continued European exploration.
 - Christian defense against the conquests of Ottoman Muslims at the Battle of Malta, the Battle of Lepanto, and the Siege of Vienna.
- Changes among Christians following the Protestant Reformation.
 - War between England and Spain and the defeat of the Spanish Armada.
 - The English victory determined that England and her future American colonies would be Protestant.
 - The role of struggles for religious liberty and political freedom in the English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution.
 - Their role as inspiration for the American colonies and Founding Fathers to seek self-rule and religious tolerance.
- Further exploration, mercantilism, and the emergence of pirates and privateers.
 - How American colonists mostly ignored English trade restrictions and Tejanos Spanish restrictions as they each practiced free enterprise.
 - English, Dutch, and French pirate and privateer attacks on Spanish ships carrying gold, silver, sugar, and other goods, including Francis Drake and Piet Heyn.

KEY TOPIC: THE BRITISH COLONIES IN AMERICA

- Location on a map:
 - The thirteen colonies and the cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston.
 - The three colonial regions and their traits, including New England's rocky soil but good harbors, the Middle Colonies' broad rivers for trade, and the Southern Colonies' fertile soil and long growing season for farming.
 - All fifty states, including their capitals.
- The founding of Jamestown.
 - How settlers left Europe to seek prosperity and the freedom to earn their own living.
 - The roles of John Smith in instilling the principles of hard work and merit in order for the community to survive and of John Rolfe in cultivating tobacco that made Jamestown successful.

- Conflict with and support from American Indians including conflict between Powhatan and the English and cooperation between Pocahontas and John Smith at Jamestown.
- The founding of Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies by the Pilgrims and Puritans.
 - How the Pilgrims and Puritans both sought the freedom to create religious communities separate from the Church of England.
 - How the Pilgrims sailed on the *Mayflower* and survived the first winter with help of American Indians, including the Wampanoag and Squanto.
 - The first Thanksgiving with the American Indians.
- Ideas found at Jamestown and Plymouth that would define America.
 - The ideas of free enterprise, private property, merit, and religious freedom compared to life under European absolute monarchs and oligarchs.
 - The practice of the consent of the people and self-government found in the Virginia House of Burgesses and the Mayflower Compact compared to rule by kings in Europe.
 - John Winthrop's image of "A city upon a hill".
- Life in the colonies for American Indians, European colonists, and African colonists.
 - William Penn and his ideals when founding Pennsylvania.
 - How the colonists and American Indians cooperated at some times and were in conflict with each other and amongst themselves at other times.
 - Daily life and what it was like to live, work, worship, and celebrate.
 - How indentured servitude and slavery were practiced in the colonies, including inhumane treatment and lack of freedom.
 - Origins of the antislavery movement by Pilgrim, Quakers, and John Woolman.
 - That most Texans are descended from the peoples of Europe and Africa who immigrated or were brought to the British colonies of North America that would become the first thirteen United States of America.
- The ways the colonists were forced to take care of themselves.
 - Living in the wilderness with the nearest military help an ocean away.
 - The slow movement of news across the ocean by boat, making laws from England that limited trade under mercantilism hard to enforce.
 - England not controlling the settlement of their colonies as Spain and France did, but letting individual people and businesses found them in the way they wanted, which is a trait of individualism and free enterprise in America and Texas.
- The ways colonists continued the traditions of self-government, merit, and self-reliance first shown at Jamestown and Plymouth.
 - Holding town meetings and electing their neighbors to colonial assemblies to make laws for them.
 - Providing for their common self-defense through individual firearm ownership and militias.

- Owning their own private property, cultivating the land, engaging in manufacturing and trade, and promoting literacy and education.
- Ideas and beliefs that promoted self-government and American identity.
 - How the Great Awakening established an American identity and willingness to question religious and later political authority.
 - Enlightenment ideas of reason and liberty, including John Locke and his ideas of limited government and the consent of the governed.
 - The English idea of rights found in the Magna Carta, the Glorious Revolution, and the English Bill of Rights.

KEY TOPIC: THE AMERICAN WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE AND THE PURSUIT OF FREEDOM

- The role of the French and Indian War in leading to the Declaration of Independence.
 - George Washington, the building of Fort Necessity, and his capture by the French.
 - The greater sense of colonial unity.
 - The British response, including efforts to have the colonies contribute to paying off the war debt by enforcing existing laws and creating new taxes.
- The important conflicts and disagreements between the colonists and the British King George III and Parliament.
 - The Boston Massacre and John Adams' defense of the British soldiers.
 - The Boston Tea Party, Samuel Adams, and the Sons of Liberty and how they created a shared colonial identity.
 - The Intolerable Acts that punished Boston after the Boston Tea Party, quartered troops, closed the Massachusetts assembly ending self-government, and moved trials to England without a jury of one's neighbors.
- The events and people that led to the Declaration of Independence.
 - The roles of the Committees of Correspondence and Continental Congress.
 - The Minutemen at the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Paul Revere's ride, and the Battle of Bunker Hill.
 - The roles of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Paine in convincing the colonists to declare independence.
- The importance of the Declaration of Independence.
 - How it was mainly written by Thomas Jefferson.
 - The signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
 - How America was founded on certain ideas, including that "all men are created equal," that the rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" come from God, and that the purpose of government is to protect these rights.
- The American War for Independence.

- George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River, the Battle of Trenton, and Valley Forge.
- Ethan Allen, Henry Knox, and the Noble Train of Artillery
- Betsy Ross, John Paul Jones, Nathaniel Greene, and Molly Pitcher.
- The reasons the Americans won the War of Independence.
 - The American victory at the Battle of Saratoga, leading to an alliance with the French.
 - Spanish assistance, including Spanish Louisiana Governor Bernardo de Gálvez's support of the American Revolution through *Donativos* (donations) that included cattle from Spanish Texas and Gálvez's victory at the battle of Pensacola.
 - Marquise de Lafayette and Baron von Steuben's roles in training and leading the Continental Army.
 - The role of James Armistead Lafayette in the American Revolution.
 - George Washington's leadership at the end of the war shown at the Battle of Yorktown and the Newburgh Conspiracy.

KEY TOPIC: THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND THE AGE OF WASHINGTON

- The problems under the Articles of Confederation that led to the Constitutional Convention.
 - The Americans' struggle to keep the British out of the frontier lands they received through the Treaty of Paris.
 - The inability of Congress to stop states from canceling debts, creating their own forms of money, and stopping trade with one another.
 - The inability of Congress to enforce law and order during Shays' Rebellion.
- The Northwest Ordinance.
 - How it arranged for the surveying of the lands of the United States.
 - Allowed for the admission of new states as equals to the existing states.
 - Forbade slavery in the Northwest Territory, including all land north of the Ohio River.
- The compromises at the Constitutional Convention
 - The New Jersey Plan, the Virginia Plan, and the Connecticut Compromise.
 - The electing of the President through the Electoral College.
 - The Three-Fifths Compromise that gave southern states 3/5 but not 5/5 representation for the slaves in their states.
 - The Slave Trade Compromise that allowed Congress to ban the international slave trade once 20 years had passed.
- The important parts of the American government under the U.S. Constitution.

- Citizenship and the freedoms and responsibilities of citizens, including civil rights, loyalty, obeying the law, voting, and military service.
- How America is a constitutional republic where its citizens elect representatives from among their neighbors to make laws, enforce laws, and select judges to judge laws, which was unprecedented at the time.
- Protecting liberty from government tyranny by dividing power between national, state, and local governments (federalism), dividing power between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches (separation of powers), and by giving those branches the power to act to stop violations from other branches (checks and balances).
- The importance of the U.S. Constitution in America.
 - How the Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Land in a country based on the rule of law.
 - How the Constitution can be changed only for very important reasons that almost all citizens agree about.
 - How the addition of the Bill of Rights guarantees that the U.S. government cannot stop religious freedom, the right to bear arms, freedom of speech, due process, and the freedom to petition the government.
- The importance of the presidencies of George Washington and John Adams.
 - The precedents of Washington's conduct as president, which made the presidency important but not like the rule of a king.
 - Washington's policy to avoid involvement in the French Revolutionary Wars and his warnings against foreign wars and long-term alliances.

Suggested Potential Content Bank for Writing TEKS

6th Grade: 1800-1900

KEY TOPIC: REVOLUTIONS IN EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS DURING THE EARLY 1800S

- The Mexican War for Independence. [H]
 - The social hierarchy in Mexico made up the social classes *peninsulares*, *criollos*, *mestizos*, American Indians, and African slaves and the system's effects on rights, jobs, and opportunities.
 - The roles French occupation of Spain, high taxes, unfair rules, and the model of America's Declaration of Independence had as reasons for Mexicans declaring independence on September 16, 1810.
 - Miguel Hidalgo, the Battle of Medina in present-day Texas, and independence from Spain in 1821.

KEY TOPIC: THE EARLY REPUBLIC AND THE EMERGENCE OF AN AMERICAN CULTURE

- Important events from the presidency of Thomas Jefferson.
 - The Louisiana Purchase, the new boundary with Spanish Texas at the Sabine River, and the Corps of Discovery led by Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and Sacagawea.
 - The peaceful transfer of power from the Federalist Party under John Adams to the Democratic-Republican Party under Thomas Jefferson in 1801.
 - The prohibition of slave imports by Jefferson and Congress in 1808.
- The War of 1812.
 - How America declared war in response to the British impressment of U.S. sailors and limits on free trade and how the war resulted in respect for America's borders and the Monroe Doctrine that established American control in the Western Hemisphere in the years that followed.
 - Important military events and figures, including the USS *Constitution* or "Old Ironsides", Commodore Perry and the Battle of Lake Erie, and Andrew Jackson and Texas volunteers in the Battle of New Orleans.
- The lives and culture of Americans during the Early Republic.

- How early Texas culture blended Tejano ranching and Spanish traditions, American settlers forming new colonies, and the lifestyles of American Indian groups already living in the region.

KEY TOPIC: TEXAS SETTLEMENT

- *Please see recommendations from fellow Content Advisor, Dr. Donald Frazier.*

KEY TOPIC: WESTWARD EXPANSION

- Causes of Westward Expansion.
 - Americans seeking land and independence.
 - New inventions and transportation improving travel and trade.
 - Manifest Destiny that encouraged Americans to spread westward.
- Treaties, conflicts, and broken agreements between American soldiers, settlers, and American Indians.
- Key innovations in the first industrial revolution in Europe and early America.
 - Key inventions such as coal power, canals, steamboats, and the cotton gin.
 - The influence of new inventions helped people start businesses and trade more, supporting a free-enterprise economy.
 - How physical features such as rivers, fertile soil, forests, and natural resources influenced population growth, settlement patterns, and economic activities in the United States, including farming in the South, manufacturing in the Northeast, and westward migration along rivers and trails.
- Important events in the presidency of Andrew Jackson:
 - Expanded voting rights for men of European descent by removing property and tax requirements.
 - The forced removal of American Indians, including the Cherokee on the Trail of Tears, which pushed tribes toward Indian Territory near Texas and affected tribal relations along the northern border of Texas.
- The causes, course, and consequences of the Mexican-American War.
 - The 1845 admission of Texas into the Union (Annexation of Texas), conflicting Texan-American and Mexican territorial claims, and how America's annexation of Texas led to war with Mexico.
 - American war aims, including President James K. Polk's vision of American territorial expansion.
 - Why Mexico chose to fight rather than surrender to American territorial claims and offers of purchase.
 - The important events, roles of Texans, and effects of the Mexican-American War.
 - Growth in trade through Galveston, Indianola, and other Texas ports.

- The Mexican Cession in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, leading to renewed American divisions over slave and free state representation.
- The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the implications for US and American Indian relations, including the need to stop American Indian raids into Mexico.
- How the annexation of Texas and the Mexican Cession raised questions about states' rights and national authority.
- Important population shifts in Antebellum America.
 - The Mormon Trail and settling of the Utah Territory by Brigham Young.
 - European emigration to Texas, including New Braunfels, Fredericksburg, Castroville, and Comfort.
 - New waves of immigrants from Ireland and Germany, the resulting growth in the Catholic population, and the Nativist response against them.
 - The California Gold Rush, migration to California, and its statehood in the Compromise of 1850.

KEY TOPIC: THE TEXAS REVOLUTION

- *Please see recommendations from fellow Content Advisor, Dr. Donald Frazier.*

KEY TOPIC: TEXAS, THE CIVIL WAR, AND RECONSTRUCTION

- The growing division between pro-slavery and anti-slavery Americans from 1820-1845.
 - A revived demand for slave labor by southern cotton plantation owners and northern textile manufacturers after the invention of the cotton gin.
 - A growing northern abolitionist movement led by John Quincy Adams and William Lloyd Garrison.
 - How the number of free and slave states would determine the future of slavery in America, including the Missouri Compromise.
 - Repressive Southern state legislation passed after the Nat Turner Rebellion that imposed even harsher restrictions on both slaves and freemen.
- The role of important abolitionists prior to the Civil War.
 - The speeches and writings of the Grimké sisters, Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Beecher Stowe.
 - The role Christians played in abolitionism following the Second Great Awakening, including the preacher Henry Ward Beecher.
 - The Coffin family, Harriet Tubman, the Underground Railroad, the song *Follow the Drinking Gourd*, and inspiration from Moses, the Israelites, and the Exodus.
- Why Abraham Lincoln believed America was violating its Founding ideas by allowing slavery to spread.
 - The Great Compromise allowed slavery to spread further and forced free states to catch escaped slaves for slave states.

- Popular sovereignty meant that whether slavery was right or wrong depended on a majority vote.
- The Kansas-Nebraska Act and the *Dred Scott* decision could make every free state into a slave state by removing limits on slavery in northern states.
- The important events that led to the Civil War.
 - The creation of the Republican Party to oppose the spread of slavery and support northern industry.
 - Disagreements over slavery, whether the federal or state governments held authority on the issue (states' rights), and whether new western states would allow slavery.
 - Violence in Bleeding Kansas and John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry.
 - The secession of South Carolina and the attack on Fort Sumter in response to the election of Abraham Lincoln as the first Republican president.
- Location on a map:
 - The battlefields in Texas, including Galveston, Sabine Pass, and Palmito Ranch.
 - The Union, Confederate, and Border States.
 - The battlefields of Antietam, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Sherman's March to the Sea, Fredericksburg, Cold Harbor, and Appomattox Court House.
- Domestic role of Texas and events that took place in Texas during the Civil War.
 - *Please see recommendations from fellow Content Advisor, Dr. Donald Frazier.*
- Major Civil War battles in which Texan men fought.
 - *Please see recommendations from fellow Content Advisor, Dr. Donald Frazier.*
- The important military turning points in the Civil War.
 - The Battle of Gettysburg, including Pickett's Charge and Texans fighting at Little Round Top and Devil's Den.
 - Ulysses S. Grant's siege and fall of Vicksburg.
 - William Tecumseh Sherman's burning of Atlanta and March to the Sea.
- The meanings and effects of Abraham Lincoln's main acts and speeches.
 - The Gettysburg Address and the ideas on which America was founded.
 - The Emancipation Proclamation and the freeing of the slaves in the Confederate States in service of the war effort.
 - The Second Inaugural Address and Lincoln's assassination.
- The successes of Reconstruction in Texas.
 - *Please see recommendations from fellow Content Advisor, Dr. Donald Frazier.*
- The contributions of early African American legislators in Texas during Reconstruction.
 - *Please see recommendations from fellow Content Advisor, Dr. Donald Frazier.*

- The ways in which Reconstruction failed.
 - Disagreements between Democratic President Andrew Johnson and Congressional Republicans that created inconsistent policy.
 - The emergence of black codes, sharecropping, lynchings, and the Ku Klux Klan both in Texas and in America.
 - The Compromise of 1877 and the loss of African American representation and rights at the end of Reconstruction.

KEY TOPIC: THE GILDED AGE IN AMERICA AND TEXAS

- Important events in American overseas expansion.
 - The sinking of the USS *Maine*, yellow journalism, and the role of Texas in the Spanish-American War, including Galveston as a naval base.
 - Theodore Roosevelt and the service of Texan soldiers in the Rough Riders at the Battle of San Juan Hill, American victory to secure independence for Cuba, and the acquisition of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines in the Spanish-American War.
- New waves of immigrants to America.
 - Those fleeing religious persecution, violence, war, or poverty, including Jewish families from Eastern Europe and Catholic Italians and Germans.
 - France's gift of the Statue of Liberty and the role of Ellis Island.
 - Chinese and Japanese immigrants, the Chinese Exclusion Act, and the Gentlemen's Agreement.
- The influence of new immigrants in Texas.
 - The role of Galveston as an entry point for immigrants and the settlement of a large Jewish population.
 - The towns of Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, Castroville, Shiner, and Laredo as places where large numbers of Germans, Czechs, and Mexicans settled seeking political freedom and economic opportunity.
 - German and Czech cultural traditions in Texas, including polka music, sausages and kolaches, the painted church of St. Mary's in High Hill, and the community festival Oktoberfest in Fredericksburg.
- Discriminatory laws and responses to them after the end of Reconstruction.
 - The creation of Jim Crow laws that discriminated against African Americans.

- The Supreme Court decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that deemed “separate but equal” to be constitutional.
- Views and efforts of W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, and Booker T. Washington on how African Americans ought to respond to such discrimination.
- The important innovations and effects of the Second Industrial Revolution.
 - The effects of the railroads in Texas, including in connecting markets, facilitating migration, and determining Texas settlement patterns.
 - The roles of oil, electricity, and steel in the Second Industrial Revolution.
 - Innovations and inventions including the Transcontinental Railroad, Thomas Edison’s light bulb, Alexander Graham Bell’s telephone, the Bessemer steel process, and the construction of skyscrapers and suspension bridges as exemplified by the Brooklyn Bridge.
- The contributions of important business owners.
 - Andrew Carnegie’s U.S. Steel, its role in the building of skyscrapers, his practice of horizontal integration (being the only business in a whole step of an industrial process), and his philanthropy in the form of public arts centers and libraries, including 32 in Texas.
 - J.P. Morgan’s role in banking and in supporting the U.S. government’s finances and Cornelius Vanderbilt’s railroad empire.
 - John D. Rockefeller’s work in oil, the growth of Texas industry, practice of vertical integration (having one business that owns all the steps in an industrial process), and philanthropy.
- The rapid expansion of America’s cities.
 - The movement of Americans from farms to cities and immigrant settlement in cities, including in Texas, to work in new mass production industrial factories, resulting in tenement housing and poverty for low-skilled laborers.
 - The roles of monopolies or trusts, labor unions, party bosses in urban industrial life, including in Texas, and the creation of the Populist Party among American farmers.
 - Efforts at reform, including Susan B. Anthony and women’s suffrage, the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and the McKinley Tariff, and the union leader Samuel Gompers who advocated for better working conditions and pay.
- Identify the spread of Communist ideology as Europe industrialized.
 - How Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels criticized American ideas of liberty, faith, and private property by promoting communism in the *Communist Manifesto*.

- How communism calls for class struggle, violent revolution, and a dictatorship to enforce equality, used propaganda tactics to spread its ideology, and engaged in bombings, assassinations, and riots.
- How many communist ideas spread through pamphlets and to the United States through immigration.

KEY TOPIC: THE TEXAS FRONTIER

- Important events in Westward Expansion after the Civil War.
 - The role of Texas in the American Cowboy Era and expansion of the cattle industry, including the Chisholm Trail which became the I-35 interstate, the Goodnight–Loving Trail, and the growth of Fort Worth as “Cowtown”.
 - Mexican American contributions to Texas including *vaquero* ranching traditions on the King Ranch, farming with irrigation in South Texas, and the cultural celebrations Fiestas Patrias, Las Posadas, and Día de los Muertos.
 - How the Homestead Act shifted land ownership from government to private ownership by poorer Americans, immigrants, and freedmen.
- Important events in Texas and America in the history of American Indians after the Civil War.
 - Experiences of the Comanche and Kiowa in Texas, the Medicine Lodge Treaty, and the Red River War.
 - Crazy Horse, George Armstrong Custer, and the Battle of Little Big Horn and the Wounded Knee Massacre.
 - The efforts of Carl Schurz to reform the Indian Bureau and advocate for better treatment of American Indians followed by the Dawes Act of 1887 that divided tribal lands into individually-owned American Indian farms in an attempt to promote an American settler lifestyle.

Suggested Potential Content Bank for Writing TEKS

7th Grade: 1900-2016

KEY TOPIC: THE PROGRESSIVE ERA

- Reasons why the Progressives disagreed with the Founders.
 - Founders' belief in limited government and free enterprise while Progressives wanted to set rules for workers and consumers.
 - How the Progressives believed the government should become more powerful to solve more problems while the Founders believed the government should be limited to the purpose of protecting rights.
- The important actions of Theodore Roosevelt.
 - Conservation efforts and creation of the National Park Service, with the later additions of Bid Bend National Park and Guadalupe Mountains National Park.
 - Big Stick Diplomacy and continuation of the Monroe Doctrine, and the building of the Panama Canal.
The passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Packing Act.
- Important innovations in America and their effects at the dawn of the 20th Century.
 - The discovery of oil in Texas at Spindletop in 1901 establishing oil as a main driver of Texas prosperity as it fueled new industries, powered transportation, and built America's industrial and economic power.
 - Orville and Wilbur Wright and the invention of the airplane, which would become a major industry in Texas, which is home to American Airlines.
 - Henry Ford and the assembly line mass production of the Model-T based on the ideas of the division of labor and economies of scale.

KEY TOPIC: WORLD WAR I: UNITED STATES AND TEXAS

- The important features and events in World War I prior to America's declaration of war.
 - The operation and effects of artillery, machine guns, barbed wire, gas, and trench warfare in destroying Europe and killing millions.
 - The roles of unrestricted submarine warfare and the Zimmerman Telegram, which asked Mexico to attack Texas, in leading the United States to declare war.
- The major events of America in World War I.
 - The American economic war effort, the planting of victory gardens, conservation of food and fuel, purchase of Liberty Bonds, and the Espionage and Sedition acts.
 - The Selective Service Act and major battles in which American Doughboys fought, including the role of Texans of the 90th Infantry or "Tough 'Ombres" in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.
 - The importance of America's military and industrial might in securing an Allied victory.

KEY TOPIC: 1920S AND 1930S: UNITED STATES AND TEXAS

- The challenges for America following World War I.
 - Renewed labor union and communist activity following Russia's Bolshevik Revolution, the subsequent Palmer Raids, and the Wall Street Bombing of 1920.
 - The spread of the Ku Klux Klan and the Tulsa Massacre.
 - Organized crime during Prohibition including bootleggers and speakeasies.
- American economic and cultural developments during the 1920s.
 - Growing prosperity and growth in the stock market.
 - The innovations of radio and Hollywood movies, flapper culture, Art Deco architecture and style, professional sports, and the novel *The Great Gatsby*.
 - The Harlem Renaissance, jazz music, blues music, and the Great Migration of African Americans from the south to northern cities, including Texas blues musician Blind Lemon Jefferson.
- Life during the Great Depression.
 - Bank runs and the loss of people's savings due to fractional reserve banking.
 - Unemployment, Hoovervilles, and the threat of communist revolution.
 - The role of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, his fireside chats, and his banking holidays in restoring calm among Americans.
- The Dust Bowl in Texas.
 - How drought, high winds, and over-farming caused crops to fail, families to lose their farms, and many to migrate in search of work.
 - How Texans worked with New Deal programs such as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to plant windbreaks, adopt better farming methods, and conserve the land.
 - How Texans rebuilt their lives with the help of churches and charities that provided food, clothing, and community support.
- The key efforts of the New Deal and their connection to earlier Progressive ideas.
 - The Hoover Dam and public works programs.
 - The end of the gold standard and increase in government regulation.
 - The Social Security Act and direct welfare payments.

KEY TOPIC: COMMUNISM AND OTHER TOTALITARIAN REGIMES

- How the Communist Revolution came about in Russia.
 - The overthrow and execution of the royal family.
 - The Russian Civil War between the Reds and the Whites.
 - One-party dictatorship, the Red Terror and mass murder committed by the Communist victors.
- Life under communism and Josef Stalin in the Soviet Union.

- Oppression and suffering, mass murder, violent land seizures, anti-religious persecution, show trials, concentration camps, forced labor, poverty, general economic deterioration, the political purge known as the Great Terror, the gulag archipelago, and the Holodomor or Ukrainian Famine.
- The methods communists used to spread their ideology, including propaganda, public shaming tactics, censorship, and forced conformity.
- Communist attempts to seize power in China in the 1920s and in Spain in the 1930s and their effects.
- How Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party came to power in Germany.
 - Appealing to anger over the Treaty of Versailles and the subsequent unemployment, lost savings, and hyperinflation.
 - Appealing to fears of communist revolution and to antisemitism, including the Nuremberg Laws and *Kristallnacht*.
 - Winning elections, staging the Reichstag Fire as a “false flag” operation, and using the “crisis” to justify emergency dictatorial powers.
- The immediate events that led to and started World War II.
 - German rearmament, the militarization of the Rhineland, and the seizure of Austria and Czechoslovakia.
 - The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between Germany and the Soviet Union and cooperation between Germany, Italy, and Imperial Japan under Hideki Tojo.
 - British and French guarantees of Polish sovereignty and the German invasion of Poland.

KEY TOPIC: WORLD WAR II: UNITED STATES AND TEXAS

- The major events in World War II prior to the American declaration of war.
 - The German and Soviet invasions of Poland.
 - The invasion of France and the Miracle of Dunkirk.
 - Winston Churchill, the Battle of Britain, and the Blitz.
- The attack by Japan on the United States Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor and how World War II affected the United States at home.
 - Full employment, migration to cities, the Navajo and Lakota Code Talkers, industrialization of the south and west, and the Bracero Program.
 - Increased size and power of the federal government and the internment of Japanese American citizens.
 - Innovations in computers and nuclear weapons.
 - Volunteerism and sacrifices through victory gardens, scrap metal drives, and war bonds.
- Texas’s contribution to the American war effort in World War II.

- Audie Murphy of Texas as one of the most decorated American soldiers in World War II.
- The role of Chester Nimitz of Texas in the naval victory over Japan.
- How Texas industries fueled the American Arsenal of Democracy, including through shipbuilding in Houston and the Houston Ship Channel, aircraft manufacturing at Fort Worth, oil refining in Port Arthur and Corpus Christi, the Permian Basin, and the new pipeline the Big Inch and Little Big Inch.
- The holding of German POWs in camps in Hearne and Mexia and the role of U.S. military bases at military bases of Fort Hood and Kelly Field in San Antonio.
- Important World War II events.
 - Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Union joining the Allies, the Battles of Midway The Coral Sea and Guadalcanal, D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, Island-hopping, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.
 - The conferences at Yalta and Potsdam and their decisions.
 - The Manhattan Project and Harry Truman's decision to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- The background and consequences of the Holocaust.
 - The Nazi regime's dehumanization of the Jews including the Kristallnacht pogrom.
 - The Nazi regime's attempt to exterminate the Jewish people completely through systematic mass murder by execution and in concentration camps.

KEY TOPIC: POST WAR AMERICA AND EARLY COLD WAR: WESTERN LIBERTY AND COMMUNIST TYRANNY

- Important events in the beginning of the Cold War.
 - The Soviet acquisition of a nuclear weapon marking the beginning of the Cold War between the two superpowers of the United States and the Soviet Union.
 - The Iron Curtain dividing Europe between communist and western regimes.
 - The Marshall Plan, the Truman Doctrine, the creation of the Central Intelligence Agency, and domestic efforts to resist Soviet espionage.
- The founding of the State of Israel in 1948, subsequent wars, alliance with the United States, and peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan.
- Dwight Eisenhower's leadership in advancing American ideals.
 - Dwight Eisenhower as a World War II general and military hero.
 - Desegregation of the armed forces and use of federal troops to enforce *Brown v. Board of Education* at Little Rock High School in Arkansas.

- Building of the interstate system including I-10, I-20, I-35, I-45 that made it easier for the military and people to travel, growing cities, the Texas economy, and tourism.
- Efforts to preserve peace and self-government by warning about the power of the military-industrial complex.
- The presidency of John F. Kennedy.
 - The failed Bay of Pigs invasion followed by Kennedy’s leadership during the Cuban Missile Crisis.
 - The creation of NASA and the Apollo program in response to the Soviet Sputnik launch and the role of Houston in America’s space program.
 - Kennedy’s assassination in Dallas, Texas in 1963 and its effect on America’s sense of security and optimism.

KEY TOPIC: CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENTS

- The Civil Rights Movement.
 - Bus boycotts, Rosa Parks, sit-ins, and freedom rides, and general civil disobedience.
 - The participation of Texan citizens in the Civil Rights Movement, including the efforts of Barabara Jordan, the first African American woman elected to Congress.
 - Martin Luther King, Jr., the March on Washington, and appeals to America’s Founding ideas of liberty and equality in calling the Declaration of Independence a “promissory note” in his “I Have A Dream” speech.
 - The passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis in 1968.
- Movements for civil rights for Mexican Americans and American Indians. **[H, CIV]**
 - The use of marches, boycotts, and legal cases to raise awareness and secure full civil rights.
 - The American Indian Movement and the Wounded Knee Occupation.
 - The work of César Chávez and Dolores Huerta who organized farmworkers and Héctor P. García who started the American G.I. Forum to help Mexican American veterans and families.
- Important domestic developments during the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson.

- Lyndon B. Johnson as a former Congressman and Senator from Texas and one of two U.S. presidents born in Texas, having been born in Stonewall, Texas.
- First Lady Ladybird Johnson's role in beautifying Texas and America by planting wildflowers and bluebonnets along highways which became a symbol of Texas pride, natural beauty, and conservation.
- The Great Society programs that gave the federal government more power and expanded welfare.
- Mass media, television, and the cultural revolution of the late 1960s and early 1970s.
- Internal migration, changes in America's cities, the expansion of suburbs, and urban race riots.
- The history of American combat against the communist Vietcong in the Vietnam War.
 - America's deepening involvement in Vietnam as revealed in the Pentagon Papers and as part of Domino Theory and Containment Policy.
 - The role of the Tonkin Gulf Resolution in expanding the war and of the Tet Offensive and the media in turning public opinion against the war.
 - The draft, fighting conditions of American soldiers, and the anti-war movement.
- The important events and effects of Richard Nixon's presidency.
 - Nixon's election victory by appealing to the "silent majority" that favored law and order.
 - The history of Watergate and Nixon's resignation.
- Important conflicts and resolutions in which America was involved.
 - The final communist victory in Vietnam and the subsequent Cambodian genocide under Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge.
 - The Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War.
 - The Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel and the Iran Hostage Crisis.

KEY TOPIC: CONTEMPORARY AMERICA AND TEXAS

- How leaders helped bring the Cold War to an end.
 - President Ronald Reagan's military and economic pressure on the Soviet Union.
 - The roles of Britain's Margaret Thatcher and Poland's Pope John Paul II in working with Reagan to champion freedom and human dignity.

- Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's willingness to attempt reforms of the Soviet Union.
- Major events and their effects during the 1990s.
 - George H.W. Bush one of the three Texans who were elected President of the United States.
 - Post-Cold War efforts at global trade, including the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- The September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and on the Pentagon in Washington, D.C..
 - The attacks as the basis for the War on Terror against Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan and worldwide.
 - The invasion of Iraq in the Iraq War.
- Important events of the George W. Bush and Barack Obama presidencies.
 - George W. Bush one of the three Texans who were elected President of the United States.
 - The 2008 economic crisis and Obama's election victory making history as the first African American president.
- The important innovations and their effects during the computer and technological revolution of the 2000s and 2010s.
 - The Internet and widespread ownership of computers.
 - The smartphone and app use.
 - Social media and big tech companies.