



Men for the King

TEKS: History 2 A, B; Economics 11A; Science, Tech, Society 21B; SS Skills 22 A,B.

Main Focus: King Louis XIV knew that it would take many well-equipped soldiers to control the vast territories of the New World. Whole industries in France evolved around the supplying of arms and armaments for soldiers. Standardization of equipment was achieved by the 1690s. Look at the French Marine. What equipment is depicted? The manufacture of armament required specialized skills and technical knowledge. Success of a mission depended in part on reliable “firepower”. Note the complex system of symbols used in “How to Decode a Canon”.



Birth of the Belle

TEKS: History 2 A,B; Science, Tech,Society 21B; SS Skills 22 A,B,C

Main Focus: In the 1600s shipbuilding was a skilled “industry” that required hundreds of craftsmen who built with “hand and eye” methods rather than blueprints. Mature oak was the preferred wood and trees were “trained” into certain shapes for shipbuilding. Even a small ship like Belle, a three-masted sailing ship, required hundreds of trees. The design of the Belle was prized for the shallow draft, maneuverability and seaworthiness. The shipwrights used 18 key measurements in her construction. What was the standard measure used? How is it different from our standard measure?



Visions of Empire

TEKS: History 2 A,B; Geography 6A;Economics 11A; SS Skill, 22 A,B,C

Main Focus: Louis XIV already ruled New France. He wanted more territory and southern ports to compete with Spain. The West Indies were the most prosperous settlements in the New World; the best ports were controlled by Spain. In an effort to compete with Spain in the Caribbean, France needed a foothold in the Gulf. LaSalle was the first European to explore the length of the Mississippi which he claimed for France in 1692. What does the document dated 14 April 1684 relate to?



Gallery of Cultural Encounters “Educators Guide”



Landscape Diversity

TEKS: Geography 6 A, B; 7B; 8C Social Studies Skills 22 ,A,B,C

Main Focus: Study the large topographic Map. Describe the major geological features. Take particular note of the river systems along the coast . How would this diversity of landscape features affect Native American lifestyles? Early European explorers commented on the diverse flora and fauna. Landscapes are dynamic and change through time. Where was the coastline in South Texas 3000 BP? Pick out the features that form the modern boundaries of Texas.



Cultural Encounters

TEKS: History 1 A,B,C,D; 4 E

Main Focus: Native Americans occupied Texas for over 10,000 years. In the 16th and 17th Centuries, contact with Europeans began to change both the landscape and living patterns of Native Americans. The Karankawa is poling a traditional dugout canoe. What European goods has he salvaged? Why would the Karankawa think these things were valuable ?



Cultural Landscapes

TEKS: History 1 B, 2 A,B; Geography 6 B, 8 A,C Economics 10 A; Government 15 A; Social Studies Skills 22 A,B,C

Main Focus: The Central Gulf Coast Region from Northern Mexico to the Red River was home to many diverse Native American groups ranging from settled farmers to hunters and gatherers. These diverse populations were linked through complex trading networks. The Karankawa, a tribe whose origins date back 3,000 years, consisted of 5 groups. The Karankawa migrated seasonally from the coast in winter to inland areas in the summer. Study the painting which depicts a summer camp and its resources. What were their houses made of? How did they prepare meat? In the case below, what did they hunt and fish?



French Settlements, Spanish Missions

TEKS: History 2A,C; Geography 6A,B; Economics 10A; Government 15A, Social Studies Skills 22A,B,C

Main Focus: The French arrival in the heart of Karankawa territory had lasting consequences, despite the colony being a failure. In response to this incursion into New Spain’s “backyard”, the Spanish sent explorers and missionaries to establish a firm presence in the territory and convert native populations. Mission La Bahia was originally located on the site of the French colony. Fesada Pinta, Llano Grande, and Pedro Jose were all Karankawa leaders who had interaction with the missions. Efforts to convert them were largely unsuccessful.



Early European Exploration

TEKS: History 2A,B; Geography 6A,Economics 13C, Culture 20C, Social Studies Skills 22B,C

Main Focus: The Europeans who followed Columbus initial voyages were seeking to explore and reap the riches of the Americas. DePineda’s 1519 voyage mapped the Gulf-Coast including Texas. Cabeza de Vaca wandered through Texas and Mexico, describing the landscape and peoples. Coronado crossed Texas in 1540 in his search for Cibola. LaSalle shipwrecked in Texas in 1684 and established an ill-fated colony. Alonso de Leon blazed trails across Texas in the late 1680’s in his search for the LaSalle colony.



LaSalle’s Gamble

TEKS : History 2A,B; Geography; 6A,8A; Economics 10A,B, 11A, 13A,C; Citizenship 17A, SS Skills 22 A,B,C.

Main Focus: International trade was the driving force of 17th Century European economy. LaSalle’s expedition carried a variety of trade goods intended to establish trade with Native American groups. Utilitarian and decorative objects of glass and metal were prized by Native groups who had no such technology. Note the two paintings depicting LaSalle meeting the Cenis and LaSalle’s Expedition to Louisiana. How is LaSalle being received by the Cenis? As LaSalle rows ashore at Matagorda, what is going on in the lower right?



Adventurous and Loyal Subjects

TEKS: History 2A,B; Economics 10A, 11A, 13A,C; SS Skills 22A,B,C.

Main Focus: Many of the men who sailed with LaSalle were soldiers, but a colony also needed families and tradesmen to sustain itself. Among the most important “trades” were: master carpenter, blacksmith and mason. Others were merchant, tailor, miller, baker, rope maker, cooper, and gardener. Priests also came, but unlike the Spanish, made no serious attempt to convert the Natives. What do the personal effects displayed here from the Belle tell about the colonists education? Wealth? Status? How did the various skills contribute to setting up and maintaining the colony?



Gateway to Destiny, Misery at Matagorda

TEKS: History 2A,B; Geography 6A, SS Skills 22 A,B,C

Main Focus: LaSalle left France with two missions: establish a colony on the Mississippi and find an overland route to the Spanish silver mines in Northern Mexico. His expedition used erroneous maps of the day like the one pictured. Where is the Mississippi River located on the map? After a stormy crossing, they sailed past the true Mississippi, and landed at Matagorda Bay. Stranded along the coast by the loss of their ships, food and equipment; soon disease, desertion and distrust spelled doom for the French colony. What happened to LaSalle? A few children and deserters were found living among the Native American groups by Alonso de Leon in 1689.



Life On Board, A Mess at Super

TEKS: History 2A; Economics 10B SS Skills 22 A,B,C.

Main Focus: Providing adequate and healthy rations on a voyage was always a challenge. Meat and ships biscuit were staples. What meat was preferred by passengers and crew? Disease was the biggest threat to life aboard ship, carried aboard by vermin. What were the diseases? What types of medicines were used to treat illness and disease?