



# The ALAMO™

## THE MAPS OF STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

### TEACHER'S GUIDE



## DEAR EDUCATOR,

Here at the Alamo, we know that your time is precious, and we appreciate the work you do in educating our future leaders, innovators, and thinkers. Therefore, we have created this TEKS aligned lesson plan to be utilized in your classroom, so that you can spend more time doing what you love – teaching our youth. Please feel free to use this guide as you see fit, and let us know if you have any questions or suggestions by emailing us at: [education@thealamo.org](mailto:education@thealamo.org).

**Sincerely,**  
**The Alamo Education Department**

## WHY AUSTIN?

*Known as The Father of Texas, Stephen F. Austin shaped the future of Texas beyond colonization and politics – he was integral to providing detailed and viable maps of the uncharted land. Studying Austin allows for educators to seamlessly blend the study of Texas history and geography. In a time of easy access to Google maps, placing students in the shoes of an empresario in a wild land will give relevance to a world where maps were needed for survival.*



# TEKS

## GRADE 7 Social Studies

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- (1) A, B, C
- (2) E
- (3) A, B, D
- (8) A, B
- (9) A
- (10) A
- (11) A, B
- (20) A
- (21) A, B, C, D

## GRADE 4 Social Studies

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- (2) E
- (6) A, B
- (7) A
- (8) A, B, C
- (14) B
- (20) B
- (21) A, C



Maps are a necessity for any traveler, but particularly in the wilds of unsettled Texas when the Comanche dominated the plains and much of the region was both dangerous and unknown. Few maps existed, and the ones that did provided little information and were often not made readily available to the public. When the United States acquired Louisiana from Napoleon Bonaparte in 1803, the boundary lines (many of which touched Texas) between the United States and New Spain were never firmly settled. Maps of the area created by the United States were vague at best, such as this **1802 map of new discoveries in the interior parts of North America by Aaron Arrowsmith**. New Spain, which would become Mexico, fared little better. When Alexander Von Humboldt created a **map of New Spain in 1804**, he left Texas largely blank due to the lack of information. In **1807, a Franciscan priest stationed in Nacogdoches named Father Puelles created a map** with an accurate representation of the rivers of Texas, but this was not published, and therefore provided little aid to the general populace. Although Spain claimed control of Texas for three centuries, it was still almost completely unpopulated and uncharted.

Therefore, when Stephen F. Austin entered Texas with his original 300 families in 1823-1824, they were truly blazing a trail to a largely unknown land. While Austin is best known for his colonization and political efforts, his role as a **cartographer** of Texas is no less significant.

## CARTOGRAPHER

*A creator of maps*

Before he ever led the Old Three Hundred into Texas, his mapmaking work had already begun. After confirming his father's agreement with the new Mexican government in 1821, he spent time traveling through and mapping the region that would become his colony. As Mexico would go through many growing pains attempting to establish a stable government, Austin had to spend almost a year in Mexico City after advertising for his colonies to reaffirm his agreement with the Mexican government. It was during this time that he created his very first map of Texas. He used the map created by Puelles in 1807 as a basis for a simple map of what we now know as the southern and eastern portions of Texas.



Map by Aaron Arrowsmith, 1802. [Click map for full size image](#)



Map by Alexander Von Humboldt, 1804  
[Click map for full size image](#)



Map by Father Puelles, 1807. [Click map for full size image](#)



This 1822 map was filed with his papers in the process of petitioning for his grant, and though it is simple, it is remarkably accurate. It was arguably the most accurate map of Texas that had been created up to that date, and, perhaps more importantly, copies of it were shared with others. As most of the Spanish maps were kept in the archives, this was an important step forward in charting Texas.

However, his work was not finished. As Austin continued to petition for his grant, he wrote in a memorial to the Congress of Mexico on May 13, 1822 that although he had been unable at this time to do a complete and thorough map of Texas, having lost the ship with which he meant to map the coast, he intended to persevere. He wrote “...Your petitioner undertakes to commence this work and present to this government an exact chart from the province of Texas with a description of all the

## EMPRESARIO

*A person who, by agreement with the Mexican government, settles and leads immigrants in large parcels of land in Texas.*

ports immediately so that it is possible to procure the necessary boats and ferries” (Austin, 1924, p. 514). Throughout his time as an **empresario** of Texas, Austin collected information on his adopted home, and the new colonists aided in the quest by sending him information regarding the regions in which they settled. Furthermore, when Manuel Mier y Terán was given a commission by the Mexican government to bring back a report on Texas, it was not an entirely political report. He included detailed notes on an **1826 map of Texas**, and he graciously shared this information with Austin. All of his work culminated in a **beautiful map published in March of 1830**. It was published in a 29”x 23.5” which could be folded into a pocket size – perfect for travel. It was immediately and enduringly popular – requiring several printings for almost two decades. Furthermore, Austin wished for his map to be used in his cousin Mary Austin



Map by Stephen F. Austin, 1822. [Click map for full size image](#)



Map by Manuel Mier y Terán, 1826. [Click map for full size image](#)



Map by Stephen F. Austin, 1830. [Click map for full size image](#)





Map by David Burr, 1833. [Click map for full size image](#)



Map by J.H. Young, 1836. [Click map for full size image](#)

Holley's book, *Texas*, which encouraged immigration. Although H.S. Tanner, the publisher of the map, would not allow rights to the map, the map used instead was based on the Austin/Tanner map. Nor would this be the final map that used Austin's map as a basis. Most Texas maps in this time period can trace at least some of their origins to the 1830 map, including a map in **1833 by David Burr** and a **map in 1836 by J.H. Young**.

Austin did not seek out being an empresario of Texas - he inherited it from his father, Moses - nor was he ever trained as a cartographer or politician. And yet, he left his mark in all three arenas well beyond his untimely death in 1836. When he arrived in Texas in 1821, it was wild and unknown, and by the time of his death, it was a new republic that would continue to be explored and discovered based on the foundation he laid. In a letter to future Vice President of Texas, Lorenzo de Zavala, on June 23, 1829, Austin stated practical reasons for the creation of the map. "My purpose has been to add to the geographic knowledge base of the Mexican territory and to present Texas to Mexicans and to the world as it has been immersed in obscurity for centuries and is still very unknown" (Austin, 1928, p. 236). However, as practical as this reasoning might have been, there were personal reasons for the creation

of the map, as well. "My object was not individual profit, it was to bring this country forward into public view... Respect for the opinions and last will of my father caused me to explore Texas in 1821. I was both delighted and astonished to find it to be the most favor [sic] region I had ever seen. Its fertility and natural resources, so far exceeding any thing I had imagined, determined me to devote my life to the great object of redeeming it from the wilderness" (Austin, 1928, p. 413).



# CARTOGRAPHY: THEN & NOW

In the space below, create your own map of a place that is familiar. It could be your bedroom, your house, your classroom, or any other place you visit often. Be sure to include potential dangers, resources that may be used by travelers (such as food and water), terrain (anything that would hinder the progress of travelers), and notes on the local population.



Do you think a traveler would be able to have a good grasp of the space before ever seeing the location? Now imagine creating a map for the entire state of Texas without modern resources. How would you go about such a task and what resources and information would you need?

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# TEXAS: THEN & NOW

Go to a computer and use the resources page for this lesson plan to find the websites for the 1830 Austin map and the 1836 Young map. Although the Young map is based on the Austin map, many things changed in six years. There are more towns, settlements, land grants, etc.

Compare the two maps and list two changes you see from the Austin map to the Young map:

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Find the western part of both maps and note the changes that you see. What do you think caused these changes?

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Although there were many changes in Texas in the six years between 1830 and 1836, much more has changed between 1836 and present day. However, there are pieces of history that have marked our state despite the passing of time. Though the Spanish priests who established Mission San Antonio de Valero in 1718 would find that things appear very different today, they would still find the remains of their mission in the Alamo and the San Antonio River that drew them to the location.



Visit <https://www.google.com/maps> and search for Texas. Compare the 1836 Young map and the modern map of Texas and find three similarities between the 1836 Young Map and the modern map of Texas.

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# RESOURCES

Below we have detailed the resources that proved useful in our research of the maps of Stephen F. Austin. Please feel free to use them to do your own geographical research.

## Maps

Arrowsmith, A. & Puke, J. (1802) *A map exhibiting all the new discoveries in the interior parts of North America.*

[London: A. Arrowsmith] [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2001620920/>

Austin, S. F. (1822) *Mapa topográfico de la provincia de Texas.* [?] [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/98687158/>

Austin, S. F. & Tanner, H. S. (1830) *Map of Texas with parts of the adjoining states.* [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: published by H.S. Tanner] [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2015586566/>

Burr, D. H. (1833). New York, NY: J.H. Colton and. Retrieved January 22, 2019, from <http://www.glo.texas.gov/history/archives/map-store/index.cfm#item/93836>

Galli, F. (1826). Map of Texas [Map]. In *Texas Map Collection.* Retrieved January 22, 2019, from [https://www.cah.utexas.edu/db/dmr/image\\_lg.php?variable=di\\_04843](https://www.cah.utexas.edu/db/dmr/image_lg.php?variable=di_04843)

Jones, S. H. (2017, June 16). *Eater.* Retrieved January 22, 2019, from <https://www.eater.com/2017/6/16/15814180/texas-road-trip-best-routes-restaurants>

Von Humboldt, A. (1804). General Map of the Kingdom of New Spain [Map]. Retrieved January 22, 2019, from <https://www.visitthecapitol.gov/exhibitions/artifact/general-map-kingdom-new-spain-16deg-38deg-north-latitude-alexander-von>

Puelles, Jose Maria de Jesus, 1772-1840. [Provincia de Texas], map, 1807;(texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph298413/m1/1/: accessed January 15, 2019), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, [texashistory.unt.edu](http://texashistory.unt.edu); crediting University of Texas at Arlington Library.

Young, J. H. (1836). *A New Map of Texas, With The Contiguous American & Mexican States* [Map]. Philadelphia, PA: S.A. Mitchell. Retrieved January 22, 2019, from <https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~216~20055:A-New-Map-Of-Texas,-With-The-Contig#>



# RESOURCES

## Websites

Texas State Historical Association Online Handbook of Texas: <https://tshaonline.org/handbook>

The Portal to Texas History: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/>

## Articles

Martin, R. (1982). Maps of an Empresario: Austin's Contribution to the Cartography of Texas. *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*,85(4), 371-400. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30239726>

Reinhartz, D. (2015). Maps of Stephen F. Austin: An Illustrated Essay of the Early Cartography of Texas. *Phillips Map Society Occasional Papers*,(8). Retrieved January 16, 2019, from <https://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/pdf/plp/occasional/OccPaper8.pdf>

Texas General Land Office. (2018, July 26). Map of Texas with parts of the Adjoining States [Web log post]. Retrieved January 22, 2019, from <https://medium.com/save-texas-history/map-of-texas-with-parts-of-the-adjoining-states-f5f4b24f5cdc>

## Books

Austin, S. F. (1924). *The Austin Papers* (Vol. I). Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.

Austin, S. F. (1928). *The Austin Papers* (Vol. II). Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.