



The ALAMO™

THE CRADLE OF TEXAS LIBERTY



HISTORY TRUNK

Learning Stations

The questions in this workbook will help guide your class through the contents of the Alamo History Trunk. Questions are meant to be open-ended so that students are able to personally relate to the items in the trunk.

Questions and comments may be sent to the Alamo Education Department at:

EDUCATION@THEALAMO.ORG





STATION 1
CLOTHING



STATION 2
NOURISHMENT



STATION 3
TOOLS



STATION 4
LUXURY ITEMS





SLOUCH HAT



FUR HAT



BROGANS (SHOES)



BONNET



BELT



SEWING KIT



HUNTING FROCK



FABRIC SWATCHES



APRON





In our modern world, we have easy access to pre-made clothing. Texas in the 1800s, however, was a very different place. Even if settlers had money to pay for clothes, they rarely had access to stores. In fact, clothing became so precious that it was often willed (given at death) to others. These circumstances led to a creative blend of homemade clothing that combined cultures, frontier style, and fashion.

Questions ?

How is this clothing different from your clothing? How is it similar?

In the wild and rugged Texas terrain where clothing is not easily replaced, what features would you look for in clothing?

Every piece of clothing had a specific purpose – choose one of the pieces and decide what purpose it served.

What is the most important piece of clothing in the history trunk? Why?





Chocolate



Green Coffee



Dried Beans



Roasted Coffee



Meat



Parched Corn



Piloncillo



SKILLET



HAVERSACK



BRICK TEA



WOODEN BOWL



TIN PLATE



GOURD CANTEEN



HORN CUP



TIN CUP



UTENSILS



HORN SPOON





In a time before grocery stores, Texas settlers had to be practical with food, and any food they had needed to be able to last a very long time (common meal items such as pork and corn were dried so they would last). Furthermore, any eating utensils had to be sturdy and/or made with readily available materials such as the bone handles of the fork and knife. Once again, Texans rose to the challenge and adapted to their environment.



Questions ?

What do all of the food items have in common? Why do you think early Texans would have chosen these foods?

What are some of the materials used to create the eating utensils? Why do you believe those materials were used?

What kind of meal could you create using the items in the trunk? Are any of the food items still in use today? If so, which food items?

What is the most important nourishment item in the history trunk? Why?





CANDLE MOLD



COMPASS



HAND AX



POWDER HORN



BULLET BLOCK



FLINT & STEEL



CANDLE



HUNTING BAG



POT SCRUBBER





Prosperity was not guaranteed in 1800s Texas, in fact, most Texians fought to survive. However, having the correct tools greatly increased your chances in the beautiful but harsh land. Merely having the tools was not enough – hunting, fire building, and shelter creating were necessary skills. Those who came to Texas unprepared soon learned why the land had long remained unsettled.



Questions ?

List the items that could be used in hunting. Why was hunting so important in 1800s Texas?

Though the light of a candle may seem less important, imagine not having light without the sun. Why would you want to have a candle?

Most of the tools were multi-purpose. Choose one of the tools and list ways in which it could have been used.

What is the most important tool in the history trunk? Why?





MIRROR



BONE TOOTHBRUSH



DICE



MARBLES



COINS



PLAYING CARDS



CORNHUSK DOLL



LICE COMB





Perhaps the greatest difference between items owned in 1800s Texas and modern Texas are the luxury items. A simple toothbrush that is easily and cheaply obtained in our time would have been an indulgence for the Texas pioneers. The lack of supplies and stores led to the creation of entertainment items from available materials – such as metal dice shaped from bullets.



Questions ?

Why do you think these items are considered luxuries (not necessary to survival)? What are some luxury items in your life?

Why do you think money was a luxury item? How did the Texians get what they needed without money?

If you couldn't buy toys at the store, what would you do to have fun?

What luxury item in the history trunk would you choose? Why?

