

Unit 2: Exploration and Colonization

Week 1: European Exploration

Lesson 1: Key European Explorers

- **Objective:** Students will identify key European explorers and their impact on Texas.
- **Activities:**
 - **Introduction:** Brief discussion on the Age of Exploration and its motivations.
 - **Interactive Timeline:** Create a timeline of major explorers such as Cabeza de Vaca, Francisco Vázquez de Coronado, and René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle.
 - **Discussion:** The goals and outcomes of these explorations.
 - **Homework:** Write a short report on one explorer's journey and discoveries.

Lesson 2: Motivations and Impact of Exploration

- **Objective:** Students will understand the motivations behind European exploration and its impact on indigenous populations.
- **Activities:**
 - **Presentation:** Reasons for exploration (e.g., wealth, religion, national pride).
 - **Group Activity:** Each group investigates one motivation and presents findings.
 - **Class Discussion:** How did European exploration impact Native American tribes?
 - **Homework:** Reflective journal entry on how exploration changed Texas.

Lesson 3: Mapping the Routes of Explorers

- **Objective:** Students will map the routes taken by major European explorers in Texas.
- **Activities:**
 - **Interactive Map Activity:** Use maps to trace the routes of key explorers.
 - **Worksheet:** Complete a map with explorers' routes and key locations they visited.
 - **Discussion:** The geographical challenges faced by explorers.
 - **Homework:** Create a map showing the routes of one chosen explorer with annotations.

Week 2: Spanish Missions and Settlements

Lesson 4: Introduction to Spanish Missions

- **Objective:** Students will understand the purpose and structure of Spanish missions in Texas.
- **Activities:**
 - **Presentation:** Overview of Spanish missions and their role in colonization.

- **Video:** Watch a short documentary on the establishment of missions.
- **Class Discussion:** The daily life in a mission and its impact on native populations.
- **Homework:** Create a diagram of a typical mission layout.

Lesson 5: Major Spanish Missions in Texas

- **Objective:** Students will identify and describe major Spanish missions in Texas.
- **Activities:**
 - **Interactive Map Activity:** Locate major missions such as San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo), San José, and others.
 - **Group Project:** Each group researches a specific mission and presents its history and significance.
 - **Class Discussion:** How did missions influence the development of Texas?
 - **Homework:** Write a short essay on the most significant mission and its contributions.

Lesson 6: Life in Spanish Settlements

- **Objective:** Students will explore the daily life in Spanish settlements in Texas.
- **Activities:**
 - **Presentation:** Daily activities, economy, and social structure of Spanish settlements.
 - **Role-Playing Activity:** Students role-play different roles in a Spanish settlement (e.g., settler, missionary, soldier).
 - **Discussion:** Compare and contrast life in Spanish settlements and Native American communities.
 - **Homework:** Write a diary entry from the perspective of a settler in a Spanish mission.

Week 3: Colonial Life

Lesson 7: Economic Activities in Colonial Texas

- **Objective:** Students will understand the economic activities and trade in colonial Texas.
- **Activities:**
 - **Presentation:** Overview of agriculture, ranching, and trade in colonial Texas.
 - **Interactive Activity:** Simulate a market day in a Spanish settlement with trading of goods.
 - **Class Discussion:** The role of natural resources in the colonial economy.
 - **Homework:** Create an advertisement for a product traded in colonial Texas.

Lesson 8: Social and Cultural Life in Colonial Texas

- **Objective:** Students will explore the social and cultural life of people in colonial Texas.
- **Activities:**

- **Group Project:** Research and present on different aspects of social life (e.g., festivals, family life, religion).
- **Discussion:** How did Spanish and Native American cultures influence each other?
- **Homework:** Write a short story set in colonial Texas that includes social and cultural elements.

Lesson 9: Challenges and Conflicts in Colonial Texas

- **Objective:** Students will learn about the challenges and conflicts faced by settlers in colonial Texas.
- **Activities:**
 - **Presentation:** Major challenges such as conflicts with Native Americans, disease, and isolation.
 - **Debate:** Students debate solutions to the problems faced by colonial settlers.
 - **Class Discussion:** Long-term impacts of these challenges on the development of Texas.
 - **Homework:** Write a letter from the perspective of a settler describing the challenges they face.

Unit Test

This detailed outline for Unit 2 ensures that students gain a comprehensive understanding of exploration and colonization in Texas through a variety of engaging activities and assignments.