



ONLINE RESOURCES FOR EIGHTH-GRADE U.S. HISTORY TEACHERS

This guide highlights instructional resources in U.S. history available on the Humanities Texas website. These resources include episodes of our *Texas Originals* radio program, primary sources featured in our Digital Repository, lectures from our teacher professional development institutes, resources drawn from our *President's Vision* poster series, and articles from our monthly e-newsletter. This collection is organized according to historical periodization and themes outlined in the [eighth-grade U.S. history TEKS](#).

AMERICAN COLONIZATION

Teacher Institute Lectures:

Juliana Barr, [“Native Americans in Texas”](#)
Juliana Barr, [“The Spanish Colonial Period”](#)
Alan Taylor, [“Colonial Transformations”](#)
Alan Taylor, [“European Exploration and Colonization”](#)

Texas Originals:

[Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca](#), Early explorer, first historian of Texas
[Damián Massanet](#), Founder of first Spanish mission in East Texas

Primary Sources from the Digital Repository:

[King, *Chon-Mon-I-Case. An Otta Half Chief*, ca. 1836](#)
[Wood, Parson Weems' Fable, 1939](#)

Humanities Texas E-Newsletter Article:

[“From Colonists to Revolutionaries”](#)

Excerpts from teacher institute lectures by faculty addressing British, French, and Spanish exploration and colonization, colonial transformations, as well as the economic, political, and social characteristics of the American colonies.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION; THE CONSTITUTION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS

Teacher Institute Lectures:

Zara Anishanslin, [“American Society During the Founding Period”](#)
Zara Anishanslin, [“American Society During the Founding Period” Q&A](#)
Zara Anishanslin, [“Women and the Revolution”](#)
Carol Berkin, [“Alexander Hamilton and the Development of the U.S. Economic System”](#)
Kate Elizabeth Brown, [“Alexander Hamilton and the Development of the U.S. Economic System”](#)
Kate Elizabeth Brown, [“Alexander Hamilton and the Development of the U.S. Economic System” Q&A](#)
Denver Brunzman, [“Thomas Jefferson and the Rise of Political Parties”](#)
Denver Brunzman, [“Thomas Jefferson and the Rise of Political Parties” Q&A](#)
Lindsay M. Chervinsky, [“George Washington: Defining the Presidency”](#)
Lindsay M. Chervinsky, [“George Washington: Defining the Presidency” Q&A](#)
Charles Flanagan, [“The U.S. Constitution”](#)
Joseph F. Kobyłka, [“The Adoption of the U.S. Constitution”](#)
Joseph F. Kobyłka, [“Establishing the Federal Judiciary”](#)
Joseph F. Kobyłka, [“Establishing the Federal Judiciary” Q&A](#)
James Kirby Martin, [“The Seven Years' War”](#)
Bill Meier, [“The Colonies' Growing Separation from Britain”](#)
Thomas L. Pangle, [“Debating the Constitution”](#)

Jack N. Rakove, [“The Bill of Rights”](#)

Jack N. Rakove, [“How Americans Invented Their Constitution”](#)

Jack N. Rakove, [“James Madison and the Constitution”](#)

Gretchen Ritter, [“Women’s Citizenship and Political Activism, from the Bill of Rights to the Equal Rights Amendment”](#)

Gordon S. Wood, [“The Articles of Confederation and the Constitution”](#)

Gordon S. Wood, [“The Making of the U.S. Constitution”](#)

Primary Sources from the Digital Repository:

[Act to Provide a Naval Armament, 1764](#)

[Appropriations Bill, 1791](#)

[Senate Revisions to House-Passed Amendments to the Constitution, September 9, 1789](#)

[Judiciary Act of 1789](#)

A President’s Vision:

[George Washington](#)

[Thomas Jefferson](#)

Humanities Texas E-Newsletter Article:

[“From Colonists to Revolutionaries”](#)

Excerpts from teacher institute lectures by faculty addressing American colonization, religious and cultural developments, economic policy, causes of the revolution, turning points of the revolution, and representative government and political institutions.

SLAVERY

Teacher Institute Lectures:

Daina Ramey Berry, [“The Life and Achievements of Frederick Douglass”](#)

Daina Ramey Berry, [“Slavery”](#)

Albert S. Broussard, [“Slavery”](#)

Randolph B. Campbell, [“Slavery in Texas”](#)

Primary Sources from the Digital Repository:

Wilson Chinn, [“A Branded Slave from Louisiana”](#)

Frederick Douglas, [“Expression of Gratitude for Freedom”](#)

Excerpt of a [Senate Bill Proposing an end to the slave, January 13, 1807](#)

[Runaway Slave Reward Poster, 1852](#)

A President’s Vision:

[Abraham Lincoln](#)

Humanities Texas E-Newsletter Article:

[“New Resource for Educators on Teaching Texas Slavery”](#)

An introduction to the *Teaching Texas Slavery Project*, a website developed by the Center for Innovation in Race, Teaching, and Curriculum at The University of Texas at Austin. A resource for educators, scholars, and the general public, the website provides primary source documents on the history of slavery in Texas.

WESTWARD EXPANSION

Teacher Institute Lectures:

Thomas Britten, [“Native Americans and Western Expansion”](#)

Charles Flanagan, [“The War of 1812”](#)

Daniel Walker Howe, [“The Mexican War”](#)

Raúl Ramos, [“The Mexican War”](#)

Raúl A. Ramos, [“Texas Revolution”](#)

Andrew J. Torget, [“Republic of Texas”](#)
Erika M. Bsumek, [“Populism, the Railroads, & the West”](#)
Daniel Walker Howe, [“Rival Visions of America”](#)

Texas Originals:

[Moses Austin](#), Early settler of Spanish Texas
[Stephen F. Austin](#), Founder of Anglo-American Texas
[Plácido Benavides](#), Settled Victoria and contributed to Texas Revolution
[Gail Borden Jr.](#), Inventor, publisher, surveyor, and founder of the Borden Company
[Chief Bowl](#), Principal Chief of the Cherokees in Texas
[Jane McManus Storm Cazneau](#), Journalist, Author, Promoter, Unofficial Diplomat
[Martín De León](#), Mexican empresario, founded a colony
[Lorenzo de Zavala](#), First vice president of the Republic of Texas
[Susanna Dickinson](#), Survivor of the Alamo
[James Walker Fannin](#), Texas revolutionary
[Mary Austin Holley](#), Author and teacher
[Sam Houston](#), President of the Republic of Texas
[Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar](#), President of the Republic of Texas
[José Antonio Navarro](#), Mexican participant in the Texas Revolution
[Juan Seguín](#), Political and military figure of the Texas Revolution and Republic of Texas
[William Barret Travis](#), Texas commander at the battle of the Alamo

Primary Sources from the Digital Repository:

[Jefferson, Confidential Message to Congress Concerning Western Exploration and Relations with Native Americans, 1803](#)
[Jefferson, Message to Congress Communicating the Discoveries of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1806](#)
[King, Chon-Mon-I-Case. An Otto Half Chief, ca. 1836](#)
[Lewis, View of the Great Treaty Held at Prairie du Chien, September 1825](#)
[List of Supplies and Indian Presents for the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1803](#)
[Map of the United States, 1848](#)
[Russell, Lewis and Clark on the Lower Columbia, 1905](#)

A President’s Vision:

[Thomas Jefferson](#)

Humanities Texas E-Newsletter Articles:

[“Before and After the Civil War”](#)

Excerpts from teacher institute lecture by Daniel Walker Howe, “The Controversial Transformation of America, and the Consequent Transformation of Americans, in the 1850s.”

[“A Witness to Westward Expansion”](#)

Excerpts from the Report of Lieutenant Neil M. Howison on Oregon, 1846, with a link to the complete text. Originally published by the U.S. House of Representatives in 1848, the remarkable, detailed report details Howison’s 1846 trip through the Oregon Territory.

CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

Teacher Institute Lectures:

Michael Les Benedict, [“Reconstruction”](#)
Michael Les Benedict, [“Violence during Reconstruction”](#)
Daina Ramey Berry, [“Slavery”](#)
Albert S. Broussard, [“Slavery”](#)
Randolph B. Campbell, [“Slavery in Texas”](#)
Evan B. Carton, [“Teaching the Poetry of the Civil War”](#)
Daniel Feller, [“Secession”](#)

[George Forgie, “The Civil War”](#)
[George Forgie, “Secession”](#)
[Randall Fuller, “How the Civil War Transformed American Literature”](#)
[Coleman Hutchison, “Teaching the Twentieth-Century Literature of the Civil War”](#)
[Heather Richardson, “Indians in American History: The Civil War to the Progressive Era”](#)
[Andrew Torget, “The Road to the Civil War”](#)
[Jennifer L. Weber, “The Civil War”](#)
[Jennifer L. Weber, “Turning Points of the Civil War”](#)
[Gordon S. Wood, “The Revolutionary Origins of the Civil War”](#)

Texas Originals:

[Andy Adams](#), Texan cowboy
[Amelia E. Barr](#), Writer
[Charles Goodnight](#), Rancher and trailblazer
[Sarah Horton Cockrell](#), Businesswoman and entrepreneur of Dallas
[Frederick Law Olmsted](#), Landscape architect and writer of travel books
[Mollie Evelyn Moore Davis](#), Writer
[Belle Starr](#), Notorious outlaw, known as “the bandit Queen”
[Norris Wright Cuney](#), Civil and political force in post-Civil War Texas

Primary Sources from the Digital Repository:

[African American Soldiers of Company E, 4th U.S. Colored Infantry, Washington, D.C., ca. 1863](#)
[Thulstrup, Battle of Gettysburg \[1863\]](#)
[Bombardment of Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor: 12th & 13th of April, 1861](#)
[Chapman, The Fifty-ninth Virginia Infantry–Wise’s Brigade, ca. 1867](#)
[Chief Justice Roger B. Taney](#)
[Clement Laird Vallandigham, ca. 1855–1865](#)
[Grand Banner of the Radical Democracy, for 1864](#)
[Inauguration of President Lincoln, 1861](#)
[Abraham Lincoln, Excerpt from Second Annual Message to Congress](#)
[Abraham Lincoln, Emancipation Proclamation, January 1, 1863](#)
[Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address, 1863](#)
[Abraham Lincoln, Nomination of Ulysses S. Grant, 1864](#)
[Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, Cold Harbor, Virginia](#)
[President Lincoln on Battle-field of Antietam, 1862](#)
[Runaway Slave Reward Poster, 1852](#)
[Telegram Announcing Withdrawal from Fort Sumter, April 18, 1861](#)
[The Assassination of President Lincoln at Ford’s Theatre, Washington, D.C., April 14th, 1865](#)
[Turzak, A Prayer for Unity, 1933](#)
[Turzak, Aspirations, 1933](#)

A President’s Vision:

[Abraham Lincoln](#)

Humanities Texas E-Newsletter Articles:

[“Before and After the Civil War”](#)

Excerpts from teacher institute lecture by Richard White, “The Nation in 1865.”

[“America in the 1860s”](#)

Excerpts from teacher institute lectures by faculty addressing the causes, events, and legacy of the Civil War; Abraham Lincoln’s administration; suffragists and abolitionists; women in the South; the Transcontinental Railroad; Andrew Johnson’s administration; Reconstruction; art in the Civil War era; and American writing on the Civil War.

[“Pivotal U.S. Elections: Then and Now Inaugural Forum”](#)

Public lectures by scholars on different aspects of the election of 1860 and its contemporary significance.

[“Scholars Share Insights on War and Photography”](#)

Excerpts from presentations given by faculty at teacher workshop on “American Wars” in conjunction with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston on [War/Photography: Images of Armed Conflict and Its Aftermath](#).

[“The Revolutionary Origins of the Civil War”](#)

Excerpts from teacher institute lecture given by Gordon S. Wood

[“Firsthand Account of Private Prescott Tracy, Civil War POW”](#)

Firsthand account by soldier Prescott Tracy of a Confederate prison at Andersonville, Georgia. The story of his experience was part of an attempt by the United States Sanitary Commission to record the conditions faced by Union prisoners during the Civil War.