

A LINE ABOUT TIME

Students will identify and define important dates and events during the Age of Exploration.

Objectives (TEKS): **4.2 History** The student understands the causes and effects of European exploration and colonization of Texas. **7.1 History** The student understands traditional historical points of reference in Texas history. **HS US History** The student will identify and explain the reasons for and effects of physical, human, and political geographic patterns and boundaries. **HS Geography** The student will describe the human and physical characteristics of the same place over time and how human perceptions of place change society.

Materials: strip of adding machine paper, copy of data sheet with important dates (below), note cards, and glue.

Background: Native American groups (primarily Karankawa) occupied the Texas coast as early as 10,000 BP (before present) and were present when European explorers arrived on shore. French explorers led by La Salle sailed into the Gulf of Mexico, a gulf that the Spanish controlled. The Spanish were threatened by the establishment of the French settlement of Ft. St. Louis, hurried to attack the settlement, and then later established missions and presidios in Texas.

Student activity: Students will be assigned a culture (Karankawa, French, or Spanish). They will read and discuss events from their cultural perspective. Next they will list events on note cards and color their event (Karankawa - green, French - blue, Spanish -red). They will paste them on the class timeline (adding machine tape).

Student product: Class timeline that illustrates the events during the Age of Exploration.

Closure: The class will review the timeline together. A representative from each cultural group will relate each event as it is added in chronological order.

Assessment/evaluation: Ask each student to write a short paragraph about who had the best claim to the land at Garcitas Creek.

KARANKAWA (GREEN)

- 500** Karankawa lived along the coast hunting with bows and arrows and fishing for food. They lived in lean-to structures and made pottery.
- 1528** Cabeza de Vaca and several other Spaniards shipwrecked on Galveston Island. They were the first Europeans the Karankawa saw. The Karankawa kept the Spaniards as slaves for several years.
- 1685 January** La Salle and several other Frenchmen came ashore near Matagorda Island. Their ship, the Belle, remained in the bay and the Karankawa visited as guests.
- 1685 March** Frenchmen entered the Karankawa camp and the Indians left. The Frenchmen took blankets and canoes. The Karankawa believed war had been declared and killed several Frenchmen.
- 1688 December** Karankawa Indians captured Fort St. Louis and killed most of the people. Several French children were protected by the Indian women and adopted into their tribes.
- 1890** Most Karankawa had migrated to Northern Mexico and were not recognizable as a tribe.

FRENCH (BLUE)

- 1682** After exploring Canada, La Salle traveled down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico where he claimed territory for King Louis XIV.
- 1685 February** The Belle entered Matagorda Bay. On the voyage from France pirates had seized the Saint-Francois. The L'Amiable ran aground and Le Joly returned to France.
- 1685 August** Construction of Fort St. Louis was begun on Garcitas Creek, Victoria County.
- 1686 January** the Belle was wrecked in a storm.
- 1687 January** La Salle and thirty men left the fort to walk to French settlements along the Mississippi River to get assistance for the colony. His men assassinated La Salle in March **1687** Six survivors traveled to Illinois and returned to France.
- 1702** Mobile was established as a French settlement by Iberville.

SPANISH (RED)

- 1492** Christopher Columbus reached the Caribbean Islands and claimed the land for Spain.
- 1521** Hernando Cortez conquered the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan and named the territory New Spain.
- 1539** Coronado led 300 Spanish through New Spain and into Texas searching for gold and silver.
- 1680** First Spanish mission was built in Texas at El Paso.
- 1689 April** Alonso de Leon searched for the Frenchmen. He found Fort St. Louis after it was destroyed by the Karankawa. De Leon and his men buried eight iron cannon and burned the fort. In East Texas he found Pierre Talon living with the Tejas (Caddo) Indians. Later he found Marie Madelaine, Lucien, and Robert Talon living with the Karankawa.
- 1691** General Teran led an expedition through Texas. He found Jean Baptiste Talon and Eustache Breman and returned to New Spain with them.
- 1722** Presidio La Bahia was established along Garcitas Creek by Marquis de Aguayo
- 1749** Presidio La Bahia was moved to Goliad.