

## VIP (very important people): PAST AND PRESENT

**Objectives (TEKS): 4.20 Culture** The student understands the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic and religious groups to Texas. **4.22 Skills** The student applies critical thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of sources. **4.23 & 7.22 Skills** The student communicates in written, oral and visual forms. **7.2 History** The student understands how individuals, events and issues prior to the Texas Revolution shaped the history of Texas. **7.19 Culture** The student understands the concept of diversity within unity in Texas. **HS US History** The student will locate and use primary and secondary sources; analyze and organize information. **HS World History** The student will describe how citizens and non-citizens affected historical cultures; evaluate how the choices of the past affect decisions today.

**Materials:** Paper, markers or paints, costumes for actors; connection to internet for research.

**Student Activity:** The students will act out a skit or sketch a scene that depicts an event described in the scenarios provided.

**Student Product:** Skit, presentation or sketch of a person who contributed to history and their contribution - past or present.

**Closure:** Sketches or props for presentations will be displayed as a reminder of the importance of individuals to historic happenings.

**Assessment/Evaluation:** Student will complete the following sentence: My favorite way to learn about the past is . . . .

**Extension:** Each student will create a symbol for one individual that will help you remember his or her contribution or impact on Texas history.

### Background Information:

#### People from the PAST

**La Salle, French explorer, 1682** <discovered the Mississippi River; later made friends with the Caddo Indians>

**Alonso de Leon, Spanish military, 1689** <discovered Fort St. Louis after the French had been massacred; buried the French iron cannon>

**Domingo Teran, Spanish military, 1691** <found the French children named Talon who survived the massacre>

**Henri Joutel, French diarist with La Salle** <traveled with La Salle then after his death, went to French settlement in Canada and returned to France>

#### People in PRESENT who Contributed to the Past

**Robert (Bob) Weddle, historian** <translated documents to search for Mission Espiritu Santo and Presidio la Bahía>

**William (Bill) Foster, historian** <traced where the Spanish forces traveled while looking for La Salle>

**Kathleen Gilmore, archeologist** <identified the location of Fort St. Louis based on French Saintogne pottery>

**Jim Bruseth, archeologist** <led investigations of the Belle & Presidio La Bahía; found cannon at both locations>

**Further information:** [www.texasbeyondhistory.net](http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net); [www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/](http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/)