



A+ SOCIAL STUDIES CONTEST STUDY GUIDE 2024-2025

GRADES 7-8

Contest Topics:

Texas (approx. 60% of test)

- European Exploration and Colonization
 - Cultures of American Indians in Texas prior to colonization
 - Important explorers and settlements
 - Events and issues related to colonization
 - Primary source documents (approximately 8 questions)
- Concepts in Geography
 - Characteristics of places and regions
 - Immigrant groups and where they settled
- Concepts in Government and Citizenship
 - Structure and governance of Texas public education
 - Current leaders in state government
- Culture
 - Spanish influence on place names and vocabulary

United States (25-30% of test)

- Concepts in History
 - Reasons for European exploration and colonization
 - Growth of representative government during the colonial period
- Concepts in Economics
 - Differences among regions in the U.S.
 - Benefits of free enterprise
- Concepts in Government & Citizenship
 - Influences of key historic documents
 - Rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights

World (10-15% of test)

- Concepts in Government and Citizenship
 - Limited vs. unlimited government
 - Rights and responsibilities in societies with representative governments
- Culture
 - Institutions basic to all societies

Primary Source Documents

The documents listed are available online from numerous sources. Refer to the links under Recommended Resources.

- **Coronado's Report to the King of Spain - October 1541**
- **The Journey of Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca - 1542**

Recommended Resources

- Your classroom textbook
- PBS: New Perspectives on the West
(includes text of both primary sources)
www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/resources/archives/one
- Texas State Historical Association
(includes The Handbook of Texas)
www.tshaonline.org
- Digital History
www.digitalhistory.uh.edu
- Portal to Texas History
texashistory.unt.edu
- The Texas Almanac
www.texasalmanac.com
- Teacher Oz's Kingdom of History
www.teacheroz.com/toc.htm