Read Across Texas

Introduction: As students Walk Across Texas to improve their health, they can also Read Across Texas to improve their reading and writing skills. They will also learn some interesting things about their state along the way.

Grade Level and Subject: Grade Six Language Arts

TEKS: 5a, 5b, 5d, 5e, 7a, 7c, 7d, 7f, 8a, 8c, 10a, 10b, 10f, 10g, 12b, 12f, 12g, 14b, 15c, 16a, 16b, 16c, 16f, 17a, 17b, 17c, 17f, 17g, 24a

Materials: Pen and paper, poster board, glue, markers, shoe boxes, construction paper, and other art supplies necessary to produce an illustration or shadow box of a scene from the assigned book.

Resources: A variety of fiction and non-fiction books about Texas

Websites: http://www.eakinpress.com/cgi-local/SoftCart.exe/?E+scstore Click on the Juvenile button for a comprehensive list of books about Texas for young readers. This list includes reading levels and prices. Click on any book title for a short description. Any book not already in your school’s library may be purchased from Eakin Press.

Activity: Assign each student a book to read about Texas, or have them choose one from a library list. After students finish reading the book, they are to write and turn in a book report, which includes the following information:

Fiction:
- Title of book, underlined
- Author
- Illustrator
- Genre
- Main characters
- Setting
- Plot
- Climax

Non-Fiction:
- Title of book, underlined
- Author
- Illustrator
- Genre
- Main topic(s)
- Important people and/or events

Each student will also produce a poster or shadow box representing the theme, a scene, or an important event in his or her book and present it to the class.

Evaluation: Evaluate reports based on inclusion of required information, elaboration and inclusion of details, organization, grammar, and mechanics. Help students create rubrics to evaluate their own and other students’ presentations. Be sure they include language usage, diction, and tone appropriate for the audience, purpose, and occasion.