

### ***How can I best use these materials to support the Social Studies TEKS for Grade 6?***

Students will view the influence of individuals and groups on astute historical observers in America, the writer O. Henry and a South Texas photographer I.N. Hall, during the period spanning the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century through the use of primary source materials, original contemporary stories, and photographs. The highly motivating content of this issue directly supports the content goals for 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the following way:

The influence of world individuals and groups on historical events in American society may be seen in the “Creating and Using a Timeline” activity. Students are invited to consider the impact of inventions, works of art, political events, and other benchmarks from the point of view of an astute contemporary, William S. Porter, known as O. Henry.

### ***Activities Support the Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS):***

- History. Students may use the “Creating and Using a Timeline” activity to consider the influence of individual and group achievement on O. Henry’s life and work (6.2 B).
- Geography. Many of O. Henry’s characters are born of Irish-Mexican marriages (Rosita McMullen in “A Chaparral Christmas,” Josefa O’Donnell in “The Princess and the Puma,” and Santa McAllister in “Hearts and Crosses.” Read one of these stories aloud; note and discuss the immigration patterns which brought Irish and Mexican people together in this area of South Texas (6.3 B and 6.5 A). Note that the next generation, as Anglo-Americans migrated to South Texas, these daughters of Irish-Mexican marriages, took another step in blending cultures: they married Anglo men (or, in Josefa’s case, played coy with them, in the tradition of the times). Other immigrants in his stories include Germans in “Georgia’s Ruling” and “A Chaparral Prince.”
- Culture. Our own Borderland region is one in which political boundaries cut across culture regions. Use the historic clash of Mexican-Texan and Anglo-Texan cultures as exemplified in the continuous conflicts between rangers and “bandits” which are the setting of “Jimmy Hayes and Muriel.” The blending of cultures, the borrowing and spread of cultural traits may be seen in the “marriage” stories above (6.17 A, B, C, and D). O. Henry stories illustrate the relationship that exists between our South Texas society and one classic writer’s recording of it, including the influence of societal issues such as the role of women, child labor, and relationships across racial and ethnic communities (6.18 A). His literature transcends the boundaries of its society and conveys universal themes (6.18 D).
- Science, technology, and society. Use the “Creating and Using a Timeline” activity to locate examples of scientific discoveries and technological innovations, including the roles of scientists and inventors, that have transcended the boundaries of societies to shape the world of others, such as Will Porter in America at different ages and stages of his life (6.20 A). Identify O. Henry’s point of view about an issue or topic and the frame of reference from which he wrote his stories (6.21 D and E). Express these observations orally (6.22 C).