

A Study Guide

for

RGV READS

by

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Bard of the South

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The ABC Book of the Rio Grande Valley

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RGV Study Guide

NOTE: This study guide will have something for every grade and age group that will enrich students help them grow in knowledge about the RGV and develop appreciation for our Magic Valley. I hope the resources and activities will prove helpful! There are so many good Web sources for all of these topics. These I have listed will likely only be a starter for your RGV research. Teachers and Librarians may distribute this RGV study guide freely and may post it on computers for student research as long as materials posted include the title page. There will likely be a revision of this study guide in the future. Region One will keep you posted on those revisions.

One most valuable resource for all Texas related subjects is <https://www.tshaonline.org> The Texas State Historical Association. A good bell ringer activity is *Texas Day by Day*. Each article in this fine resource has a correct Chicago Manual of Style citation.

I. General Facts about the Rio Grande River:

<http://www.ibwc.gov/crp/riogrande.htm>

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/rnr05>

II. Wars Affecting the Valley:

1. War for Mexico's independence from Spain (Sept. 1810 – Sept. 1821)

<http://www.pbs.org/kpbs/theborder/history/timeline/3.html>

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/spain-accepts-mexican-independence>

2. The War for Texas Independence:

a. Online interactive vocabulary exercise: <http://quizlet.com/61367950/republic-of-texas-vocabulary-terms-flash-cards/>

b. Important Dates: Here's Texas timeline with some really good graphics.

http://www.txindependence.org/pdfs/texas_timeline.pdf

3. The Mexican War in the RGV: 1846-48

1. Rancho de Carrecitos <http://www.nps.gov/paal/historyculture/ranchodecarricitos.htm>

2. Palo Alto Battlefield http://www.nps.gov/paal/historyculture/overview_2.htm

3. Resaca de la Palma <http://www.nps.gov/paal/historyculture/resacadelapalma.htm>

3. Fort Ringgold <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qbf42>

4. Fort Texas (Fort Brown) <http://www.nps.gov/paal/historyculture/siegeofforttexas.htm>

5. The St. Patrick's Brigade: <http://noraid.com/SaintPatrick.htm>

6. Here's a great site of the Mexican War.

<http://www.nps.gov/paal/historyculture/stories.htm>

7. Fort Ringgold in Rio Grande City:
<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qbf42>

4. America's Civil War: 1861-65

Civil War Trail in the RGV:

http://portal.utpa.edu/utpa_main/daa_home/cosbs_home/rgv_civilwartrail_home

Last land battle of Civil War: Palmito Ranch May 12, 1865

http://www.fws.gov/refuges/refugeupdate/NovDec_2012/civilwar.html

Here's a site about the war going on in Mexico during the Civil War:

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1861-1865/french-intervention>

5. Mexican Revolution:

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/feature/mexican-revolution-november-20th-1910>

A. Here's a great timeline with many people, books, and events for discussion:

<http://www.pbs.org/kpbs/theborder/history/interactive-timeline.html>

B. Some things you may not know about the Revolution:

<http://www.history.com/news/6-things-you-may-not-know-about-the-mexican-revolution>

6. Native Americans:

1. Here's a good PDF of the Native Americans of Texas:

https://portal.utpa.edu/portal/page/portal/utpa_main/daa_home/csbs_home/chaps_home/imagesfiles/native-american-peoples-of-south-texas-book-publisher-format.pdf

2. Raiders –

A. The Comanches <http://www.texasindians.com/comanche.htm>

B. Lipan Apaches <http://www.lipanapache.org>

III. How the counties received their names:

1. Cameron – Named for Ewen Cameron

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fca25>

2. Hidalgo – Named for Father Hidalgo.

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fhi04>

3. Starr - <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcs13>

Named for James Harper Starr. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fst22>

4. Willacy - <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcw10>

Named for Senator John G. Willacy

ACTIVITY: Write your RGV Poem (ballad) or story of your ancestor:

1. Do your brainstorm first. Write down everything you can find out about your ancestor.

2. Choose whether to write a story of a poem.

3. Make a word and phrase bank. You can use some Spanish words.
4. If you write a ballad, you can use this site to help you find rhymes for the end words:
<http://www.rhymezone.com>

IV. Other Fun Stuff!

Animals of the RGV: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/lower_rio_grande_valley/

Butterflies of the RGV: <http://nationalbutterflycenter.org>

Plants of the RGV: http://www.thedauphins.net/rgv_native_plants.html

Bird of the RGV: <http://www.theworldbirdingcenter.com/gallery.html>

ACTIVITIES: The possibilities of this exercise are numerous! Students may research and then select an animal, butterfly, plant or bird and:

1. Make a drawing
2. Write a poem or story about. Some may even want to create their own children's picture book.
3. Share a legend they found or created. (For example, the Aztecs believed the Monarch butterfly migrations and hummingbirds were the souls of the dead returning).

Here's a site with many blank pictures a teacher can use:
<http://www.theworldbirdingcenter.com/gallery.html>

V. A forgotten part of our history: The Texas Navy:

<https://texasnavy.org>

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qjt02>

Activities:

Assign student one of the ships in the Texas Navy. Student should:

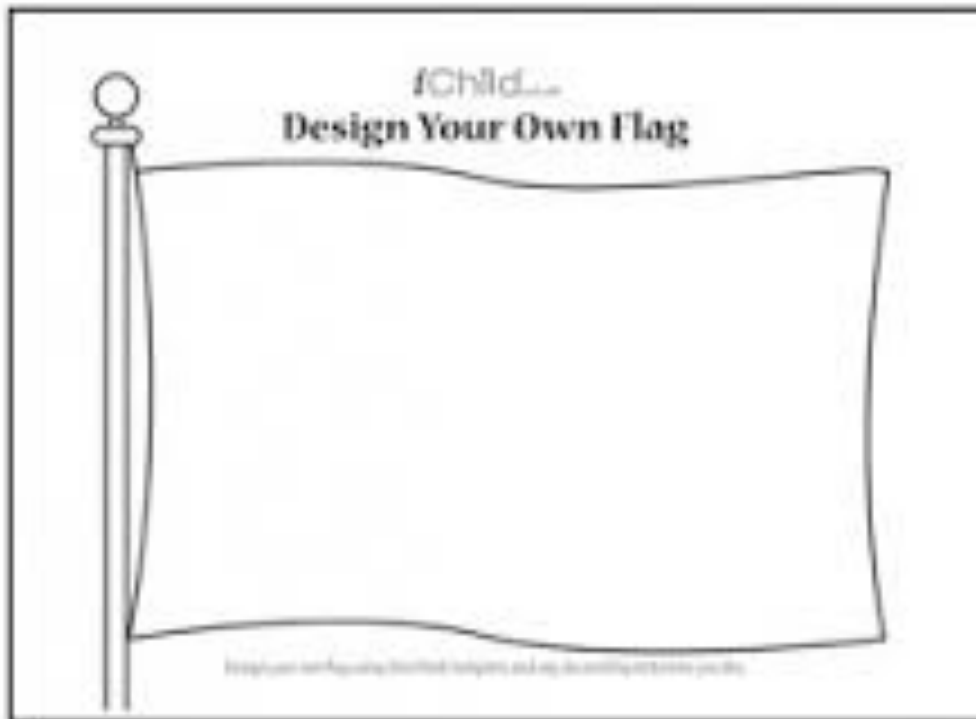
Identify the source of the information: Show the flag of the Texas Navy:

Make a drawing or find a photo of the ship:

Find information related its activities near the RGV.



Flag of the Texas Navy.



VI. Blank Texas Map: Suggested activities:

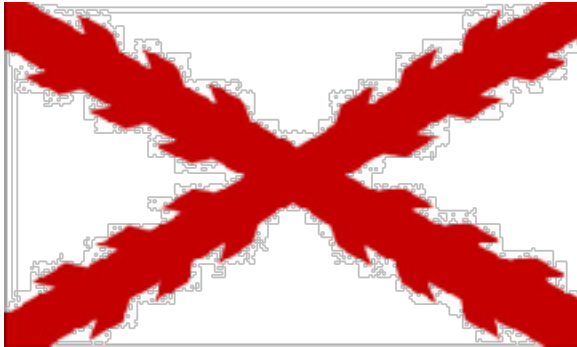
1. Students will mark the rivers of Texas
2. Students will mark cities, battles, counties of the RGV.



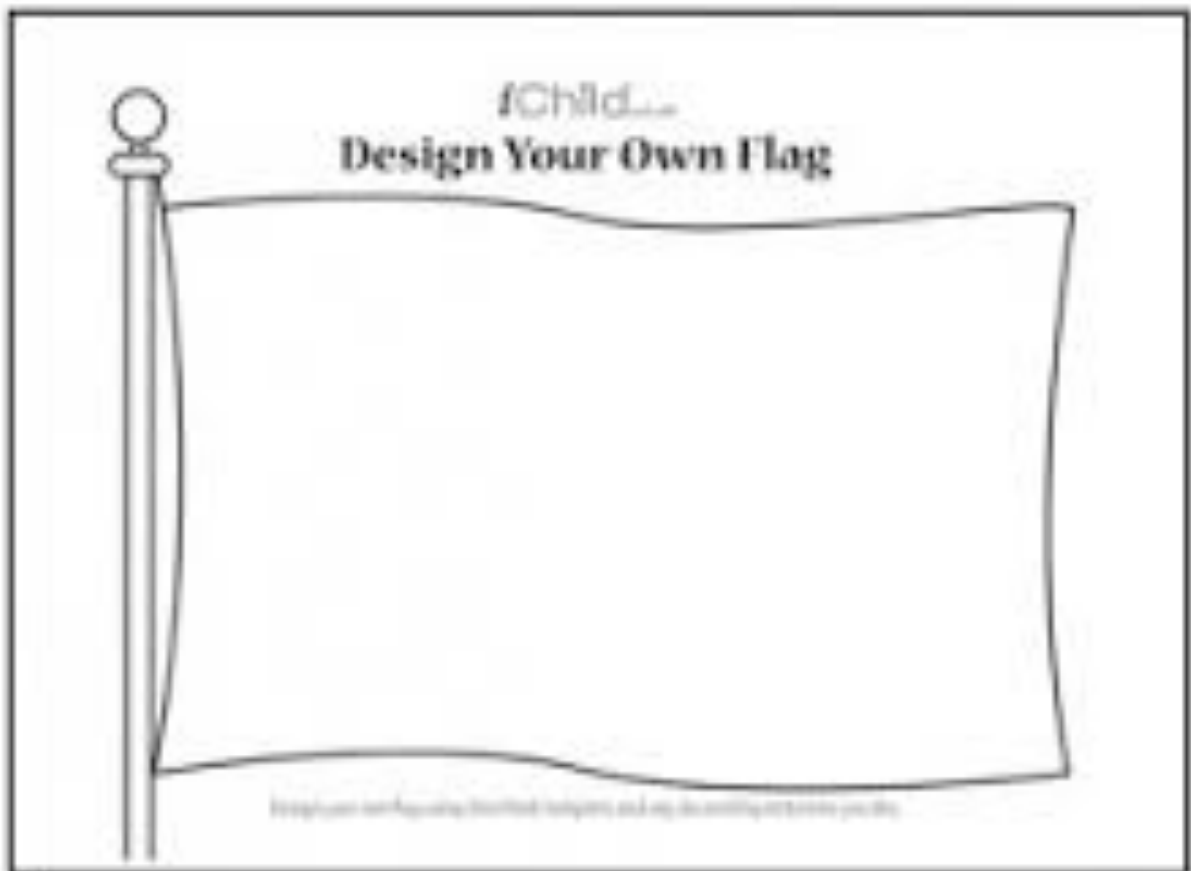
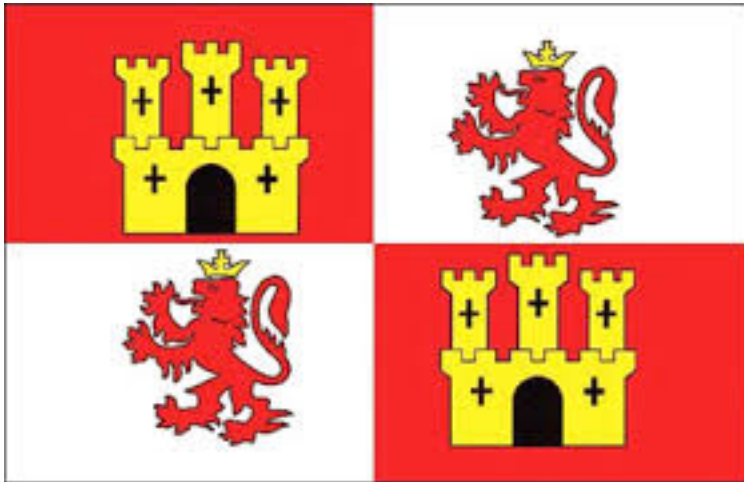
VII. Flags of the RGV:

Have the student color and label the two flags of Spain :

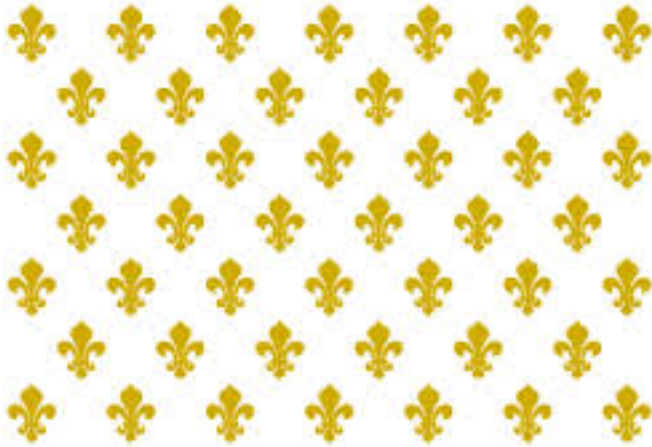
Flag of the Conquistadors



The Colonial Flag of Spain:



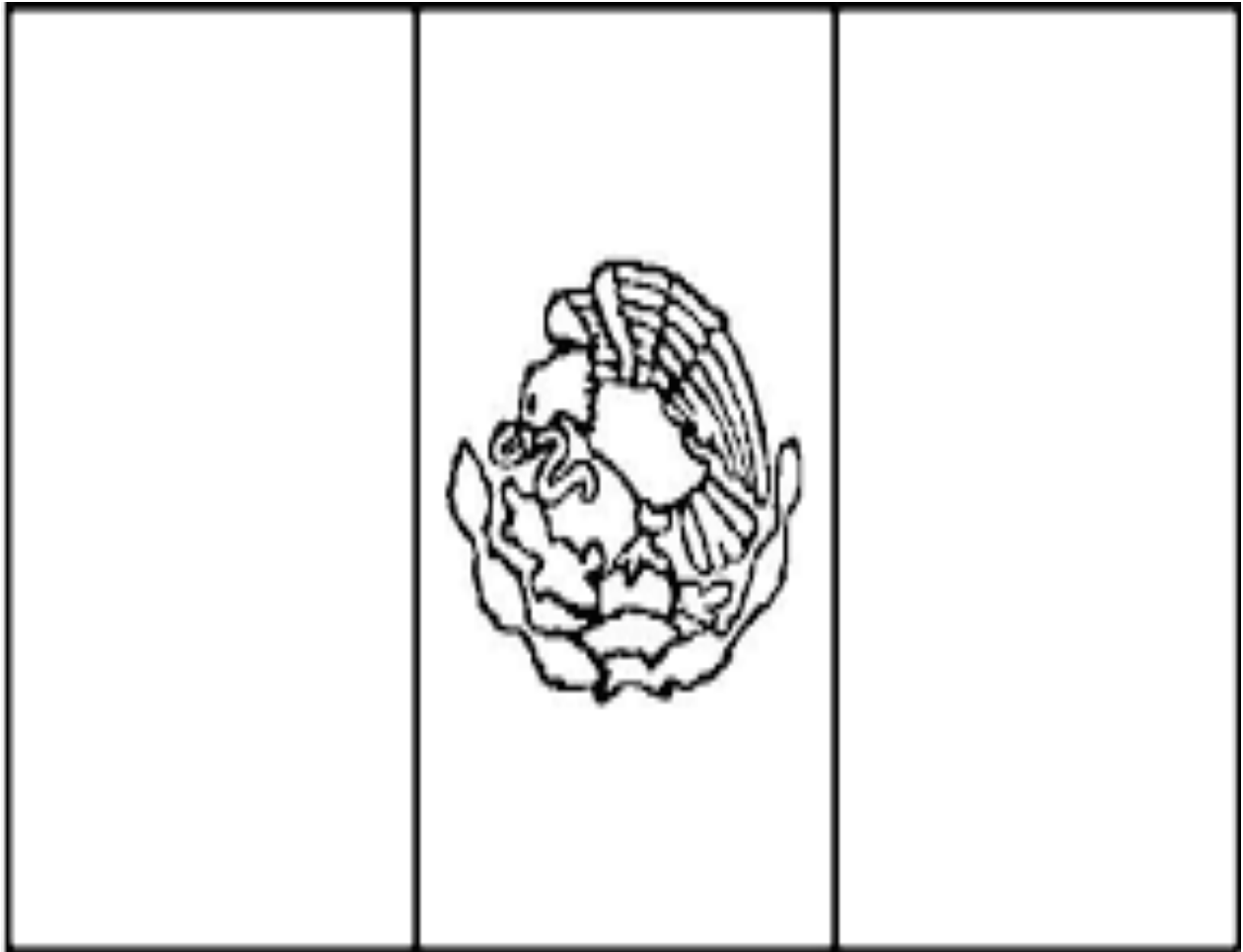
2. France (This is likely the flag that LaSalle carried)



The Mexican Flag:

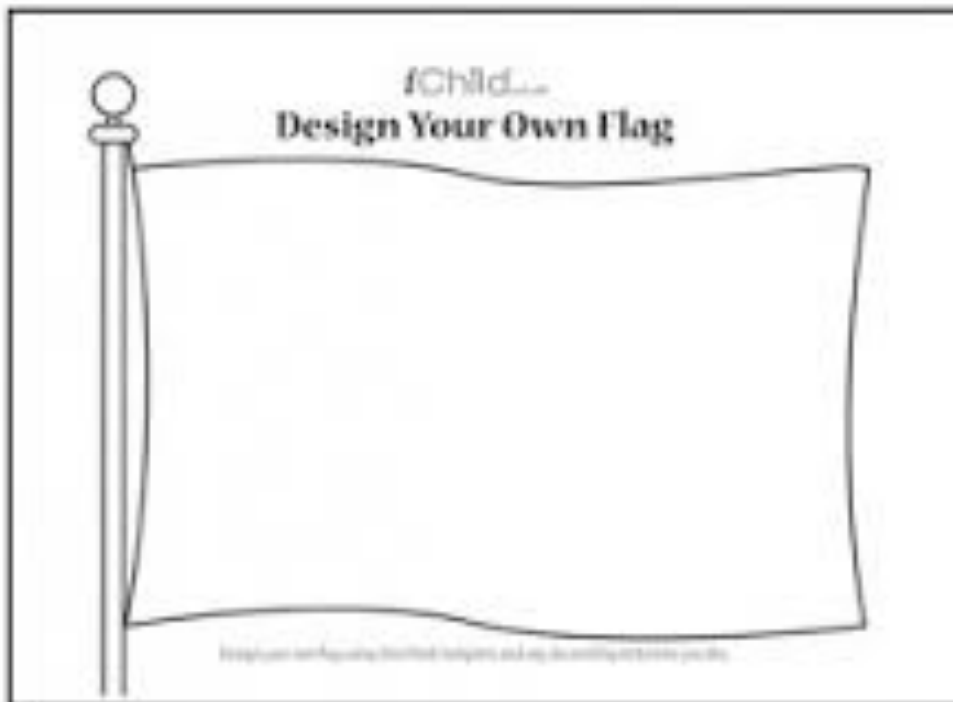
Did you know each state in Mexico has it's own flag? Make the flags of the Mexican States of Tamulipas, Coahuila, & Nuevo Leone that are neighbors to the RGV. I do not usually recommend Wikipedia, but here is an exception:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Mexican_flags For future study or enrichment: A source for the many flags in Mexico's history: <http://www.loeser.us/flags/mexico.html>



The 1810 Rebellion (War of Independence from Spain)

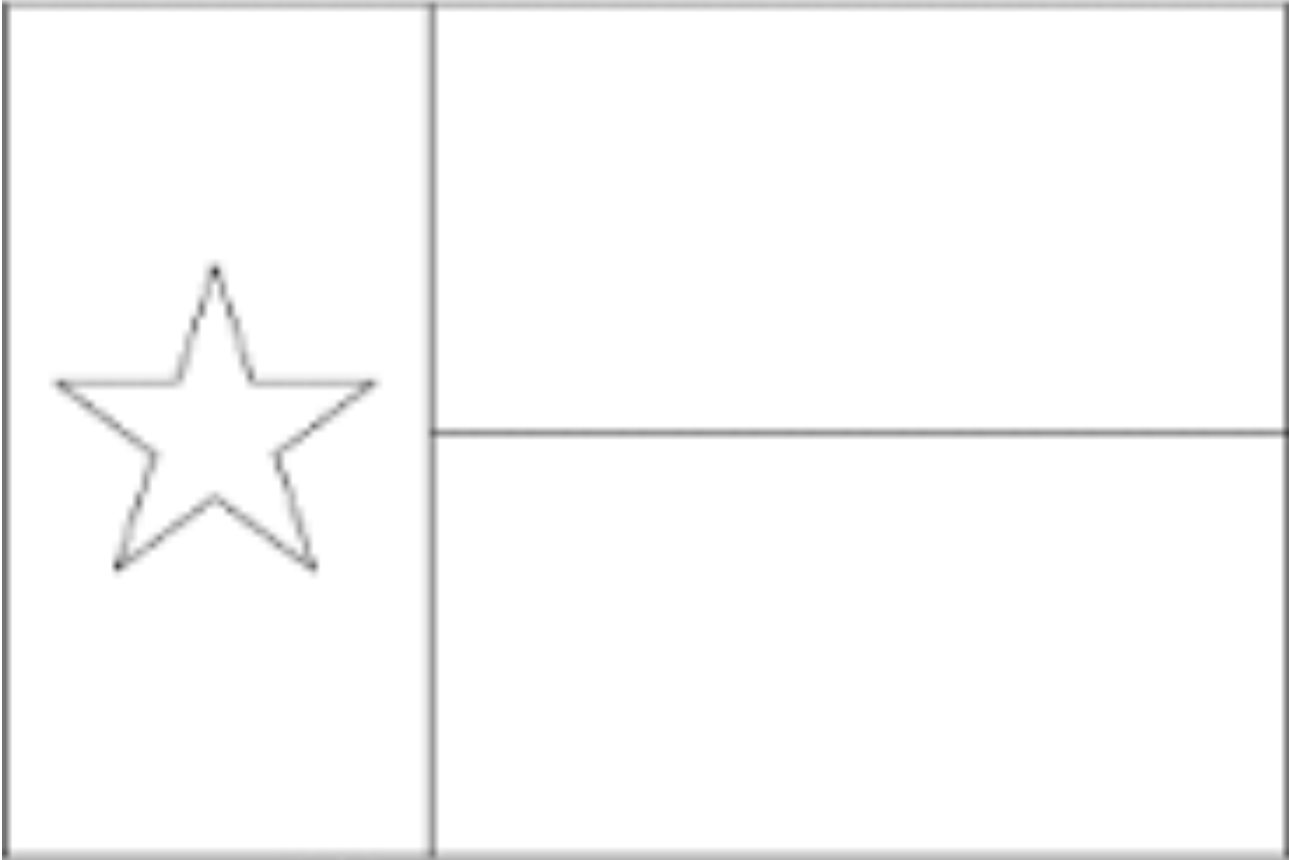
The first flag is below. The first army of this rebellion had a flag of solid green.



The Republic of Texas

The Flag of Texas

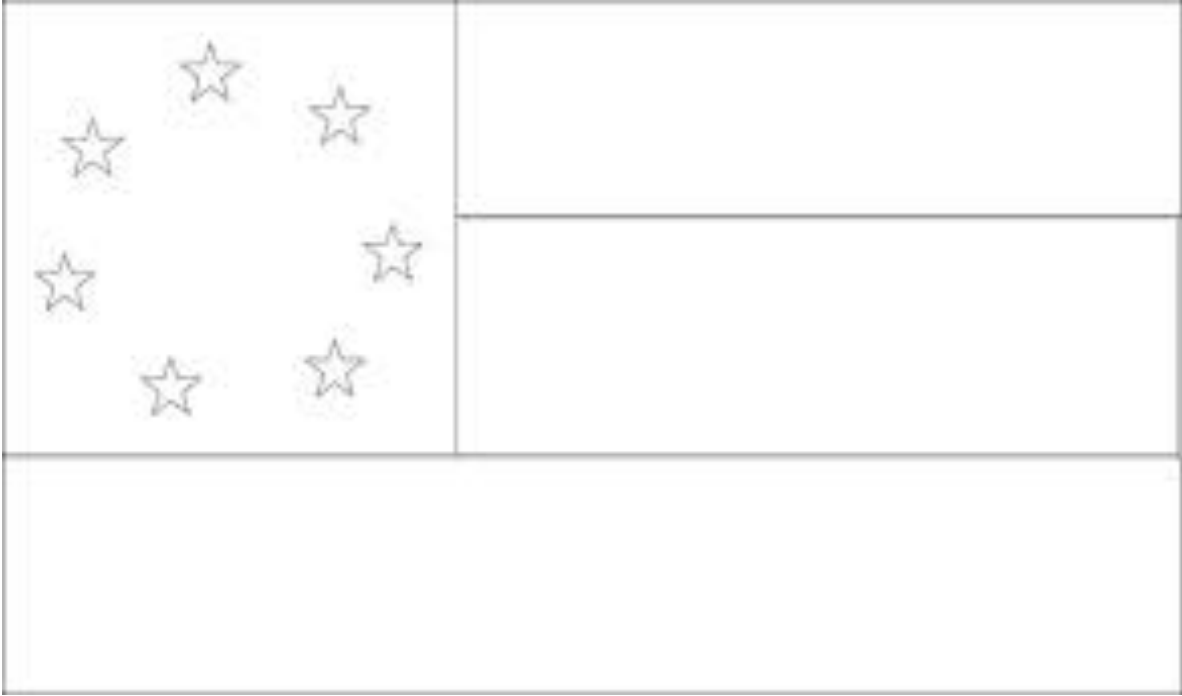
Name _____



Republic of the Rio Grande



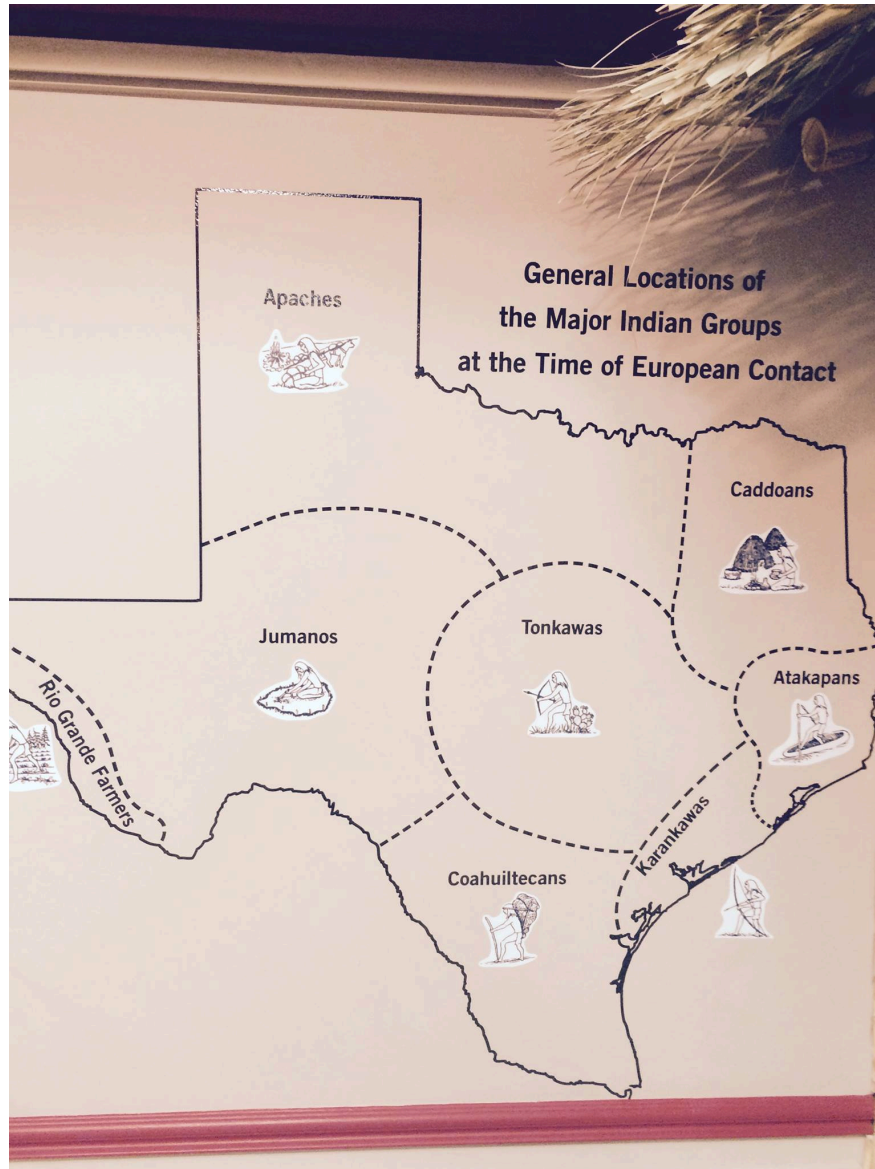
The Confederacy



The United States: Students can find these anywhere! However for this exercise students can make an American flag OR they can DESIGN THEIR OWN FLAG OF THE RGV! A student should create a short slogan in English, Spanish, or Latin to go on the flag. Student can add symbols of the RGV:



Native Americans of the RGV



*Used Courtesy of the Stillman House Museum in Brownsville

I. Karankawa: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/bmk05>

II. Coahuiltecan - <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/bmcah>

III. Native American Peoples of South Texas: (This site goes into great detail about Native Americans in our region.)

https://portal.utpa.edu/portal/page/portal/utpa_main/daa_home/csbs_home/chaps_home/imagesfiles/native-american-peoples-of-south-texas-book-publisher-format.pdf

IV. Jumanos: <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/bmj07>

Songs of the Valley by the Bard of the South, Rickey Pittman.

*For more information or for song lyrics, write Rickey Pittman at: rickeyp@bayou.com If you are interested in having Pittman write a song about your ancestor, contact him.

1. “Dr. Rodriguez” A song about the namesake of Rodriguez Elementary in Harlingen This song will be on Pittman’s next CD.
2. “Waltz Along the Rio Grande” (Salomé’s waltz) A love song written about John and Salomé McAllen. This song will be on Pittman’s next CD.
3. “Don’t Drink the Water” A song about the RGV! (This is on CD, *A Lover’s Ghost*)
4. “Go home, Pablo” A song about Pablo Sanchez, an ancestor of Larisa Cantu, McAllen ISD librarian. Pablo joined Poncho Villa’s army at the age of 14, was captured and managed miraculously to escape hanging. This song tells his story and will be on Pittman’s next CD.
5. “Rio Grande Valley Home” This once very popular song about the RGV will be on Pittman’s next CD.
6. “Texas River Song”: This song will be on Pittman’s next CD. It is a sing-along type song that helps children memorize the rivers of Texas. The song was written by a Texas schoolteacher in 1890.
7. “Miss Rio Grande Valley” (A love song set in the RGV. This song is on iTunes now: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/miss-rio-grande-valley-single/id790470692> It will also be on Pittman’s next CD. See a beautiful video of this song on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1FgemY4YI0>
8. “Yellow Rose of Texas” This song will be on Pittman’s next CD.
9. “Ariel: Therapy Dog of the Rio Grande Valley” This tells the story of Ariel, a therapy dog that works at Rodriguez Elementary in Harlingen. This song is on iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/ariel-therapy-dog-rio-grande/id657453366> This song is on iTunes now: It will also be on Pittman’s next CD.
10. “The 7th Flag of Texas” This song is about the 1810 Rebellion against Spain started with the *grito* of Father Hidalgo, the namesake of Hidalgo County. It is on Pittman’s CD, *A Lover’s Ghost*.
11. “Our Lady of Guadalupe” – a traditional ballad of one of the most commonly seen religious symbols in the RGV.