

DIME NOVELS: FRONTIER SERIES (Student books) About 160 years ago, a type of publication debuted that was not only the precursor to today's mass market paperbacks, themed magazines and comic books, but also predicated the "moving pictures" and early television "serials." Stories were told about exciting frontier adventures... a little at a time...setting up an ever growing market for the next installment. It made sense to use an historical publication model to teach history, so we created our own Dime Novels, written by Hugh F. Wynn.

"Windmills and Barbed Wire" is intended to familiarize students of today with how the Texas frontier was settled — and specifically the critical role that water, windmills and barbed wire played in winning the west. The Frontier Series of three Dime Novels are about the Sullivan family who packed up their possessions and left Malvern Junction, Arkansas aboard a Texas & Pacific westbound train, and headed for a new life in Texas. It is through their experiences that we learn about how critical water quickly became to their survival and how they adapted to their new home...and how the invention of barbed wire and windmills made it possible to settle arid regions of Texas.



"Winning the West – Frontier Challenges" continues the saga of the Sullivan's as they learn about the integral roles played by the buffalo, the Plains Indians, and the ranchers and cattle drives in the expansion of the frontier. The family learns more about surviving life-threatening disease with access to only primitive frontier medicine, and about the ravages of drought on farming enterprises.

"Winning the West – Frontier Folkways" follows the young Abbie Sullivan as she has the opportunity to attend the University of Texas. After Abbie's family relocates, she discovers her true gifts – writing and teaching – and pursues a journalism career in Austin. Later she accepts an invitation to join the Journalism Department at UT. The third Dime Novel follows some of her lectures – based on her own experiences on the frontier as a young girl – and includes information on daily life as well as some important historic events.

SaveWaterTexas.com

For additional information about scheduling this program,
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WINNING THE WEST... WINDMILLS AND WATER

4th Grade
Social Studies
Assembly Program



SaveWaterTexas presents this program without charge to schools!

Learning From Our Past To Influence Our Future

Learning from our past to influence our future...

(Aligned with the 4th grade Social Studies TEKS.)



WINNING THE WEST -- WINDMILLS AND WATER --

created and developed by SaveWaterTexas.com -- helps youngsters understand how the history of Texas has always been tied to water. Much of the arid region of Texas, for example, could not have been populated without access to this finite natural resource..

Learning how essential water was to survival on the frontier helps students develop a greater appreciation for how much we still rely on a sustainable supply of water...today and into the future.

The program's goal is to help youngsters avoid wasteful habits and to encourage them to be life-long stewards of this precious natural resource when they are adults with families of their own. They will be the ones making crucial decisions as future population growth collides with available water resources and their preparation for that challenge should begin today. If youngsters grow up with a better comprehension about water as a global issue – and how important it is to “spend” it wisely -- they will make more informed decisions in the future.

While many are puzzled by the ‘connection’ between Texas history and water conservation, this unlikely pairing has resonated with students, teachers and parents who have participated in the program. Educators say that the cross-disciplinary components included in “*Learning from our Past*” give students an appreciation for something “larger than themselves”, and help them realize the role they will play in the future.

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WINDMILLS AND WATER takes 4th graders back to one of the most exciting periods in Texas history – the settlement of the Texas frontier, cattle drives, and interaction with the Plains Indians. Before the arrival of the European explorers or the settlers from the eastern US, Native Americans lived on the land and were dependent upon water for survival, as well. In fact, ***the entire westward movement was dictated by the availability of water.*** This interactive assembly points out just how critical water was to the the frontier family, to the cowboy and rancher, to the Plains Indians...and how each accommodated the changes brought about by the invention of barbed wire and the arrival of the railroad, and the re-invention of the windmill.

During the mid-19th century, men left the Texas frontier to fight in the U.S. Civil War, leaving their families at home. While they were away, the women were left to maintain the farms and livestock and protect their homesteads against everything from bands of marauding Indians to the ravages of drought. They persevered and survived, raising families of strong, independent children who subsequently grew into adulthood and became a whole new brand of State leaders. These experiences set the stage for the emergence of the legendary State of Texas.



PROGRAM SUPPORT MATERIALS FOR TEACHERS

The “**500 Years of Texas History**” DVD features presentations about the Six Flags that flew over Texas; how the Spanish explorers introduced the horse to Native Americans and changed the balance of power on the Plains forever; and the tragic story Cynthia Ann Parker her son, Quanah -- the last Chief of the Comanches.

ROUND ‘EM UP AND HEAD ‘EM OUT – Cattle Drive Experience Game --

Here’s an exciting board game that highlights the economics, geography, and history of the Texas cattle drive era that established the state’s beef industry. Played by 4 teams of students, the game involves purchasing a chuck wagon, horses, food supplies, hiring cowboys, and the challenges the drives encountered along the trails. The winner makes the best deal at the railhead and takes home the biggest profit.

