**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN: THE FATHER OF TEXAS**

Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. Identify how Stephen F. Austin contributed to the colonization of Texas.
2. Place events in chronological order.
3. Increase their communication skills by retelling the story of Stephen F. Austin.


Materials: A flannel or magnetic board, flannel board story images (attached to lesson)

Vocabulary: capital, colonists, colony, grant, honor

Teaching Strategy:

1. (Note: Preceding the lesson, the teacher should print copies of the flannel/magnetic board story images attached to this lesson. The text can be attached or omitted based on whether the teacher wishes to tell the story in another language or tell the story in his/her own words. The images should be cut out and laminated. Depending on the surface of the display board, Velcro, sandpaper strips, felt, or magnets should be attached to the back of the laminated story images.)

2. Have the students sit on the floor in front of the flannel/magnet board. Ask students if they are familiar with any people or places named “Austin.” Allow students the opportunity to respond to the question. Making a transition from the students’ responses, explain that you are going to use the flannel/magnetic board to tell the true story about the man after whom some of the people or places they mentioned were named.

3. The teacher should tell students the story of Stephen F. Austin using the flannel/magnetic board images. If the text was omitted, the teacher can use or adapt the following script:

   • (Image: Stephen F. Austin) Stephen F. Austin was born on November 3, 1793.
   • (Image: Virginia) Stephen F. Austin was born in Virginia.
   • (Image: pine trees) His father, Moses Austin, received a grant of land from the Spanish to start of colony in Texas.
• Stephen F. Austin’s father died so Stephen carried out his father’s dream (image: covered wagon) and brought colonists to southeast Texas.
• (Image: farmer working) The colonists were farmers and (image: rancher with cattle) ranchers.
• (Image: Texas) Stephen F. Austin is called the "Father of Texas" because he brought more than 1,200 families to Texas.
• (Image: tombstone) Stephen F. Austin died on December 27, 1836, at the age of 43.
• (Image: capital) After Stephen F. Austin died, the city of Austin, the capital of Texas, was named in honor of him.

4. After the flannel/magnetic board story about Stephen F. Austin has been presented, the teacher should review the sequence of events that happened in the life of Stephen F. Austin. The teacher should then pass out the flannel/magnetic board images to 9 individual students. When the teacher asks what happened first, next, etc., the students should place their images in the correct order.

Evaluation:

At the conclusion of the lesson, the students will complete the following stem sentence: Stephen F. Austin is the “Father of Texas” because ______________________________________.

Extension:

The teacher should establish the flannel/magnetic board as a center and encourage students to retell the story of Stephen F. Austin using the story images.
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His father, Moses Austin, received a grant of land from the Spanish to start a colony in Texas.

Stephen F. Austin's father died so Stephen carried out his father's dream and brought colonists to southeast Texas.
The colonists were farmers and ranchers.

Stephen F. Austin is called the “Father of Texas” because he brought more than 1,200 families to Texas.
Stephen F. Austin died on December 27, 1836, at the age of 43.

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