**Unit Background**

**Unit title**: Part 3 – The Mexican Heritage

**Grade Level**:

**Subject Area**: Social Studies

**Designed by**: Victoria Rojas, Leana Lopez, Gerardo Navarro

**Time Frame**: 6 weeks

**Desired Results**

**Goal:**

Why study Mexican American History?

**Essential Question:**

EQ – What issues led to the Mexican Revolution?

EQ – Who were the main leaders of the Revolution?

EQ – What were U.S. interests in Mexico?

EQ – What are the issues surrounding undocumented workers?

EQ – What are the historical roles Mexican Americans have played in industry?

**Knowledge**

Important

* Mexico’s economy and government policies during the Porfiriato were privatized and attractive to foreign investment.
* The Revolutionary movements of Zapata, Villa, and Madero differed fundamentally and represented the different classes in Mexico.
* Private U.S. investors had business assets in Mexico.
* Despite the law, demand for cheap labor fueled illegal immigration for both sides of the border.
* The Bracero Program exemplifies the pros and cons…..
* Although the Mexican Americans have played crucial roles in American industry, they have been subject to discrimination.

**Skills**

* Explain the economic system used in Mexico prior to the Revolution
* Evaluate the government policies set in place by the Diaz administration
* Compare and contrast the ideologies of the main revolutionaries
* Identify the interests, private and political, the United States had in Mexico.
* Illustrate the situation of an illegal worker and legal worker
* Explain the conditions and exceptions of the Bracero Program
* Identify the role Mexican Americans had during WWII on the home front and warfront
* Question the discrimination Mexican Americans were subject to
* Demonstrate the ways in which Mexican Americans protested against discrimination

TEKS

B1, B2, B3, B5, C1A, C1B, C1D, C1E, C1F, C1G, C2A, C2B, C2C, C2D, C2E, C2F, C3A, C3B, C3C, C3D, C3E, C3F, C3G

**Learning Experiences (sequenced weekly)**

**Week 1:**

Chapter 14 Invasion from the South

* Briefly discuss Benito Juarez’s presidency
* Introduce Porfirio Diaz
* Discuss the help and harm of Diaz’s policies
  + Economic, industry, political, foreign policy, land
* Introduce opposition to Diaz
  + Cover what groups would not agree with his policies and why
* Discuss the interests of different social classes
* Emiliano Zapata, the idealist leader of the South
  + Ideology and approach to revolution
* Pancho Villa, the opportunist of the North
  + Ideology and approach to revolution
* Francisco Madero, elected but ineffective
  + Ideology, approach to revolution, and failed presidency

**Week 2:**

Chapter 14 Invasion from the South *Cont*.

* Print media propaganda
* Details of the Mexican Revolution timeline
  + Battles, important individuals
* Foreign business in Mexico
  + Land and oil

**Week 3(first half of the week):**

Chapter 14 Invasion from the South *Cont*.

* United States private investors in Mexico
* United States political interests in Mexico
  + Trade and railroad
* U.S. foreign policy
  + Monroe Doctrine and Roosevelt Corollary
* Border watch and protection
* Immigration into the United States fueled by Mexican Revolution
* Job market in the U.S.

**Week 3 (second half of the week):**

Chapter 15 Cheap Labor

* Land grants not honored forcing former landowners into wage labor
  + Property of Spain, then Mexico, then the United States
  + Local ongoing lawsuits
* Immigration laws
  + First immigrants from Mexico were Chinese
  + Exclusion Acts, immigration quotas, nationality acts

**Week 4:**

Chapter 15 Cheap Labor *Cont*.

* The Great Depression and its effect on Mexican Americans
* Labor shortage during WWII
* Bracero Agreement
  + Terms and agreement
  + Recruitment
  + Effect on domestic labor
  + Prolongation of the program
* Pros and cons of the Bracero Agreement

**Week 5:**

Chapter 15 Cheap Labor *Cont.*

* Mexican commuters
* Illegal aliens
  + Establishment of the Border Patrol
    - Predecessors of the Border Patrol
  + Militarization of the border
  + Factors involved
  + Data and numbers apprehended
  + Population explosion
  + Economic correlation
  + Terms and connotations
  + Other dimensions
* Visitor permits
* Migrant farm workers
* Comparison between legal and illegal immigration (similarities and differences)

**Week 6:**

Chapter 16 The Mexican American Industrial Age

* Mexican American migration to cities
  + Leads to socials issues
  + Urban housing
* Industrialization during WWII
  + Recognition of Mexican Americans in WWII
  + Role in the work force of war-related jobs
* Social unrest
  + Discrimination against Mexican Americans
* Riots
  + Zoot Suit Riots

Key Terms