Unit Background

Unit Title: Part 4 – The New Awareness

Grade Level:

Subject Area: Social Studies

Designed by: Victoria Rojas

Time Frame: 6 weeks

Desired Results

Goal:

Why study Mexican American History?

Essential Question:

EQ – What were the circumstances leading up to the Civil Rights Movement?

EQ – In what ways did Mexican Americans organize to address issues?

EQ – Who are some of the most iconic leaders and movements in Mexican Americans’ fight for equality?

EQ – What are the defining characteristics in the Mexican American cultural traditions of the arts and religion?

Knowledge:

* Mexican Americans within the school system have experienced neglect and misunderstanding due to language barriers, gerrymandering, and discriminatory testing
* Mexican Americans within communities have experienced discrimination in many aspects including housing, jury selections, law enforcement, public services, and employment
* National organizations were created to address social issues such as The Sons of America and the League of United Latin American Citizens
* Workers unions were instrumental in gaining workers’ rights and creating a unified Mexican American community
* Strikes, riots, and unionization were the results of ignored grievances made by Mexican American workers
* Cesar Chavez was the leader of the United Farm Workers
* Political action was critical to gaining rights guaranteed by the Constitution
* There were different approaches to gaining rights, some more placid and some militant
* Chican@ art is rooted in ancient traditions of native Americans and has been influenced by the Spanish
* Knowledge of Mexican folklore is often crucial to fully appreciate the Mexican American arts
* Poetry follows the ancient tradition of *flor y canto* (flower and song) and has been through three phases
* Chican@ literature is expansive and one of the most revealing mediums on the Mexican American experience
* Chican@ painters and sculptors are influenced by pre-Columbian, European, and Mexican artistic traditions
* Music, as with other forms of art, were influenced by different sources, but indigenous music was lost because of Conquest
* Religion plays an integral role in several aspects of Mexican American culture

Skills:

* Identify the ways in which Mexican Americans were neglected within the school system
* Identify the ways in which Mexican Americans were discriminated against within communities
* Describe the organizations that were created in response to social issues
* Explain the role of workers’ unions in gaining employee rights
* Discuss the strikes, riots, and unionization that took place as a result of unaddressed issues
* Examine the role of Cesar Chavez in the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement
* Compare and contrast the different methods of gaining rights
* Deduce the pre-Columbian, European, and Mexican elements in Mexican American art
* Recognize aspects of religion in cultural elements

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:

Part Four – The New Awareness

Chapter 17 Search of Equality

* Mexican American struggle in the educational system
  + The Spanish language as a barrier and target for discrimination
  + Segregation
  + Gerrymandering school districts
    - Implications of segregation and unbalanced tax base
  + Intelligence tests were standardized and validated the dominant English-speaking middle-class demographic
  + Vocational training
* Struggle against discrimination
  + Housing
  + Jury selection
  + Law enforcement
  + Public accommodations
  + Employment opportunity

Week 2:

Chapter 18 Striving for Self-Determination

* Importance of organizations in gaining rights
* Academic organizations
  + the National Association of Chicano Studies (NACS) and the Society of the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)
* The Sons of America
* The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
* Establishment of early labor organizations
  + The Sociedad Proteccion Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (SPMDTU)
* Organization of mine workers
* Organization of agricultural workers
  + The Wheatland Riot
  + The Imperial Valley strike (MMAS)
* Mexican labor during the Great Depression
  + The El Monte Strike
  + Grower resistance
  + The movement spreads
* The Fair Labor Standards Act 1938
* Common themes of unionization of Mexican-American agricultural workers

Week 3:

Chapter 19 Organizing for Survival

* The DiGiorgio Strike 1947
* Cesar Chavez and the Farm Workers
  + Organizer for the Community Service Organization (CSO)
  + Formed the National Farm Workers Association (
  + Merged and formed the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFWOC)
* Lopez Tijerina and the Alianza
* The domestic side of the Good Neighbor Policy
* Educational organizaions
* La Crusada Para la Justica (Crusade for Justice)
* Political action of the 60s and 70s
  + Different ideologies
  + La Raza Unida
    - Crystal City, Texas

Week 4:

Chapter 20 A Rich Tradition Continues

* Modern Chican@ drama
  + Mascaradas (*The Last Judgement*)
  + Social and political themes
  + El Teatro Campesino
* Folklore
  + Myths, legends, *cuentos* (tales), *chistes* (jokes)
  + Historical heroes

Week 5:

Chapter 20 A Rich Tradition Continues *cont.*

* Chican@ poetry
  + Three phases
* Fiction

Week 6:

Chapter 20 A Rich Tradition Continues *cont.*

* The visual arts
  + Painters, sculptors, architecture, crafts
* Music