

# LEADERSHIP QUALITIES

**Subject:** History / Writing / Art / Social Studies / English Language Arts / Social Justice

**Grades:** 9-12

## ***Skills:***

- Critical thinking
- Visualization
- Reflection
- Discussion

## ***Materials:***

- Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Worksheets

## ***Standards for Teaching / Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills:***

113.30, 113.47, 113.48, 113.50 Social Studies

110.31, 110.32, 110.33, 110.34 English Language Arts and Reading

## ***Instructions:***

Use the website offered and explore the unit on Leadership.

Pay attention to the three examples of leaders who were prominent during the Republic of the Rio Grande: Canales and Zapata, who fought for freedom and independence on behalf of the Republic of the Rio Grande; and Santa Anna, who fought in resistance to change, as the leader of the Republic of Mexico.

It is well known that Santa Anna, who would eventually be the five-time president of Mexico, switched allegiances at times and yet always used force and fear to rule. He was vehemently opposed to the Republic of the Rio Grande's establishment since its formation was a break from his government and political ideologies. He punished the emerging Republic with strategic attacks, eventually tricking and capturing Antonio Zapata, the Republic of the Rio Grande's military strategist. Once captured, Zapata was executed.

In keeping with Santa Anna's strategies to rule with fear, Zapata's head was carried in a whiskey barrel and delivered outside of his home. There, it was placed on a stake, instilling terror in those who might dare challenge him. This scare tactic is not unlike those that other ruthless rulers have used over time. Fear is a powerful tool that enables dictators to subjugate the people.

Canales and Zapata eventually lost to Santa Anna, and the Republic of the Rio Grande dissolved after less than a year. However, their valiant commitment to issues that mattered to them was quite remarkable.

**Discuss:**

- > Can you imagine leading a government now? What about one in 1840?
- > What qualities do you think are the same in leaders then as now?

**Reflect:**

Think about your leadership qualities. We all need more leaders to run our companies and our governments in the future. Can you identify some qualities in yourself that make you leadership material? Do you know any leaders? What are the qualities that you admire?



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# LEADERSHIP INSPIRATION WORKSHEET

Conduct some research on two leaders in Texas government today. Once you have learned about each, complete the following questions.

## Leader One

**Who is it?**

**What is this leader's position in government?**

**Can you describe in one paragraph what they have accomplished, as a leader?**

**Choose three words that best describe this person's leadership qualities.**

## **Leader Two**

***Who is it?***

***What is this leader's position in government?***

***Can you describe in one paragraph what they have accomplished, as a leader?***

***Choose three words that best describe this person's leadership qualities.***

# You as a Leader

***Can you see yourself as a leader? Why/Why not?***

***Do you have any of the same qualities of either of the two leaders you researched and if so, what are they?***

***What three words would you use to describe your leadership skills?***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# DO YOU KNOW A LEADER?

Is there a leader in your family? Maybe it is your grandmother who gathers the family on holidays and ensures traditions are followed. Maybe it is your aunt who is the president of a club. Think about their good and maybe even their weak qualities.

Is there a leader in your classroom? Are they nice, considerate, or smart? How do they lead your peers? Think about their qualities.

What about you? Are you a leader and if so, what qualities do you possess? Are you a good listener? Do you consider the needs of a group and not just your own needs?

After thinking of these questions answer the prompts below:

***Who is a leader that you know and admire?***

***Describe what makes them a good leader in two short paragraphs.***

***Who is it?***

***What makes you a good leader? Can you describe your strengths as a leader in two short paragraphs?***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# LAREDO AND LEADERSHIP

As the companion website described, there are topics in Laredo today that are important to a lot of citizens and often discussed by government leaders. While there are many topics, the ones shared on the website included:

- Housing
- Healthcare
- Energy Resources
- Transportation

Do you think our leaders should be thinking about these topics?  
If so, what are your thoughts on them?

Conduct some online research on the topics and provide brief responses to:

## HOUSING

*How do you feel our leaders should address the shortage of affordable, safe and warm homes?*

### Reflection

*Can you imagine what housing issues were faced by the people of the Republic of the Rio Grande in 1840? Where did a basic need, like water, come from for Laredo residents of 1840?*





# HEALTHCARE

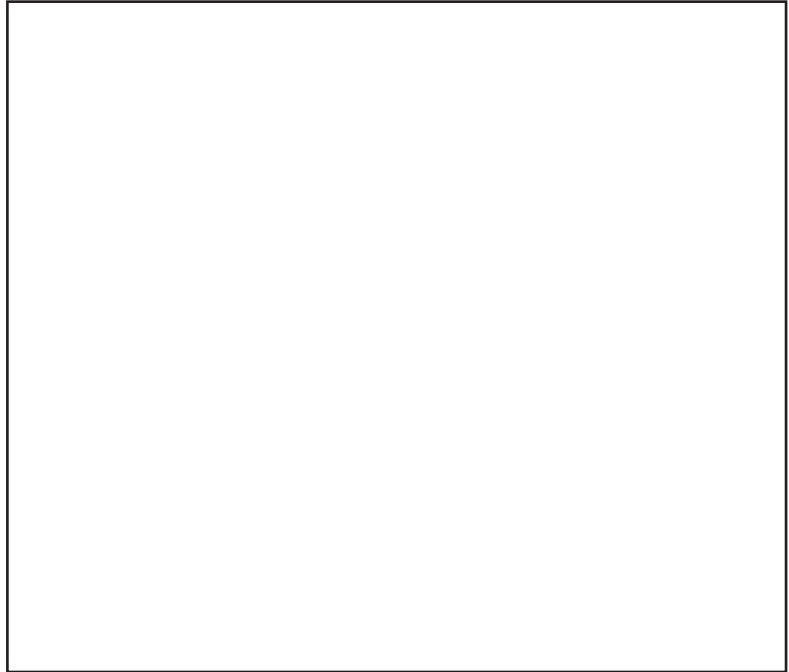
*Affordable, accessible healthcare is important for all of us.*

*What do you think our leadership should do to address this need?*

## **Reflection**

*Do you think health care was an issue in 1840?*

*What sorts of health concerns do you think people had?*

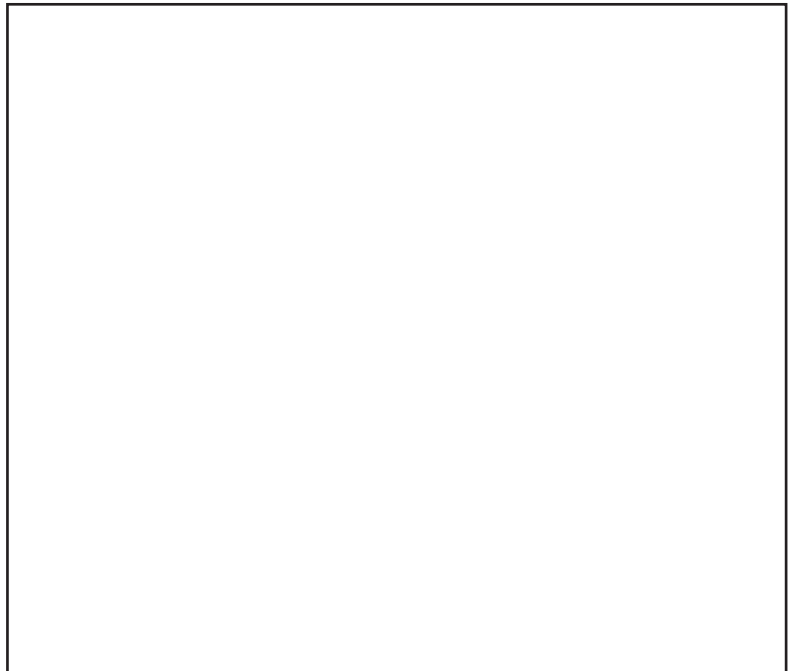


# ENERGY RESOURCES

*Texas experienced an energy (power) crisis in 2021 when the electric grid was hit by a storm. How can our leaders be thinking about ensuring this doesn't happen again?*

## **Reflection**

*Do you think it was hard to gather cooking fuel and heating fuel in the 1800s?*



# TRANSPORTATION

*We all need to move around, which requires cars, buses, bikes, etc. but getting affordable, energy-efficient transportation is a complex problem. Do you think our leaders should be concerned with this and if so, what should they focus on?*

## **Reflection**

*Imagine it was 1840 in Laredo, Texas.*

*Do you have a good, healthy horse? Can you afford to purchase a wagon?*



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# LEADERSHIP THROUGH SONG AND POETRY

As the companion website described, there were poems and songs that people have developed over the years that might have been just what a leader needed to give them inspiration. A poem on the website was focused on “determination” and is included below:

## ***Determination***

There is no chance, no destiny, no fate,  
Can circumvent, or hinder, or control  
The firm resolve of a determined soul.  
Gifts count for nothing; will alone is great;  
All things give way before it soon or late.  
What obstacle can stay the mighty force  
Of the sea-seeking river in its course,  
Or cause the ascending orb of day to wait?  
Each well-born soul must win what it deserves.  
Let the fool prate of luck.  
The fortunate is he whose earnest purpose never swerves  
Whose slightest action or inaction serves  
The one great aim.  
- *Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

***Imagine you were the leader of the Republic of the Rio Grande.  
If you were to write a poem that gave you inspiration, what would it be?***

