

Seventh Grade Lesson Plan

Dalworthington Gardens: Government Help For Farmers

Introduction During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the U.S. Government created many programs to help out of work Americans. In Texas, the Dalworthington Gardens farm community between Dallas and Ft. Worth was instituted to help urban citizens learn to grow their own food on small farms. Today, agriculture agencies at the federal, state, and local levels are still helping Texas farmers.

Objective The student will identify the three levels of government in our country and use the Internet to discover how government agencies on each of the three levels help today's Texas farmers. Information will be used to complete a chart.

Lesson Duration One 45 minute class period

TEKS

(1) History. The student understands traditional historical points of reference in Texas history. The student is expected to:

(A) identify the major eras in Texas history, describe their defining characteristics, and explain why historians divide the past into eras, including **Texas in the Great Depression** and Contemporary Texas

(7) History. The student understands how individuals, events, and issues shaped the history of Texas during the 20th and early 21st centuries. The student is expected to:

(E) analyze the political, economic, and social impact of major events, including the **Great Depression** on the history of Texas

(15) Government. The student understands the structure and functions of government created by the Texas Constitution. The student is expected to:

(A) describe the structure and functions of government at municipal, county, and state levels

Teacher and Student Materials

1. *Building Hope: Dalworthington Gardens* DVD
2. Student Handout: *From Dalworthington Gardens to Today: How Government Agriculture Agencies Help Texas Farmers* chart
3. Access to the Internet

Lesson Vocabulary

Great Depression - a severe worldwide economic depression, which started in about 1929 and lasted until the late 1930s or early 1940s

New Deal – President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s program that included a wide variety of laws and programs designed to fight the Great Depression

agriculture – farming; the production of crops, livestock, or poultry

federal – level of government that supports the entire country

agency - an organization that provides some service

Procedures for the Teacher

1. Explain that during the Great Depression, 25% of American workers were unemployed. The federal government created the New Deal, which created jobs and gave different kinds of assistance to out of work citizens. In 1934, Dalworthington Gardens was established as a subsistence farming community for people who worked in the Dallas, Ft. Worth area.
2. Inform students that governments are responsible for providing services to their citizens. Have students brainstorm various government programs that help citizens.
3. Explain that in our country we have three levels of government: federal, state, and local. While some government responsibilities are unique to each level (only the federal government can declare war), other responsibilities are shared on all three levels. Agriculture is such a large and important industry in our country that government agencies on all three levels help farmers today.
4. Inform students that during the Depression, the federal government devised a subsistence farming program that allowed citizens to own their own farms and learn the agricultural skills necessary to be successful farmers. Dalworthington Gardens, located between Dallas and Ft. Worth, Texas was created as a subsistence farm community in 1935. Participants in the Dalworthington Gardens project had to have city jobs, but also had to learn to farm. Federal government agents helped them with the skills they needed to be successful farmers.
5. Play the *Building Hope Dalworthington Gardens* video.

6. Distribute the chart, *From Dalworthington Gardens to Today: How Government Agriculture Agencies Help Texas Farmers*. Read the directions aloud to students.
7. Have students work in pairs to fill in the chart, using information found on the Internet.
8. Ask students to list three important ways the federal government helped Texans at Dalworthington Gardens.

Extension Activities

Have students research current facts about Dalworthington Gardens.

<http://www.city-data.com/city/Dalworthington-Gardens-Texas.html>

View historic photos of Dalworthington Gardens.

<http://www.texasescapes.com/CentralTexasTownsNorth/Dalworthington-Gardens-Texas.htm>

Have students find Internet information on 4-H, the nation's largest youth development organization.

<http://www.4-h.org/>

Visit the Texas State Library for a list of all Texas state agencies. <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/apps/lrs/agencies/>