Texas History Programs
Pre-Visit Activity for All Grade Levels

Essential Question:
How does the South Texas landscape influence/inform how people lived and worked in 19th century Texas?

Objectives:
- Students will identify the physical characteristics of South Texas such as landforms, bodies of water, natural resources, and weather;
- Students will identify how the human characteristics of South Texas such as ways of earning a living, shelter, clothing, food, and activities are based upon geographic location.
- The student understands how humans use and modify the physical environment. They will identify ways in which people have modified the physical environment such as building roads, clearing land for urban development and agricultural use, and drilling for oil; and identify positive and negative consequences of human modification of the physical environment.

Discussion
- Use the Texas map, photographs, and paintings from the Witte Collection to discuss the area we know as South Texas.
- Identify geographical characteristics of South Texas.
- Discuss the climate. Predict how the climate affects settlement patterns and use of natural resources in South Texas?
- What types of plants live in South Texas?
- What animals live in South Texas?
- What is it like for you to live in South Texas?
- How would you live differently if you lived in Alaska instead of South Texas?

Research topics
- How do people change the land they live on? For example: irrigation, farming, wildlife preserves, deforestation, habitat destruction, and pollution.
- Have students think of examples they have seen.

Resources for Teachers:
- http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/kids/about_texas/regions/

*Photograph(s) from Witte collection* Revised May 19, 2017
Mexican Cowboy 1937
Jack Specht

Cactus in Bloom, 1915

*Photograph(s) from Witte collection*
Julian Onderdonk

Water Cart
Louise Fretelliere

*Photograph(s) from Witte collection*  Revised May 19, 2017
Texas History Programs
Post-Visit Activity for All Grade Levels

Essential Question:
How does the South Texas landscape influence/inform how people lived and worked in 19th century Texas?

Objectives:
- Students will identify the physical characteristics of South Texas such as landforms, bodies of water, natural resources and weather.
- Students will identify how the human characteristics of South Texas such as ways of earning a living, shelter, clothing, food, and activities are based upon geographic location.
- The student understands how humans use and modify the physical environment. They will identify ways in which people have modified the physical environment such as building roads, clearing land for urban development and agricultural use, and drilling for oil; and identify positive and negative consequences of human modification of the physical environment.

Discussion
- Based on your trip to the Witte, the Texas map, photographs and paintings from the Witte Collection discuss the adaptations people made to the area we know as South Texas.
- Based on your visit to the museum, identify how people used the geographical characteristics of South Texas as a natural resource for earning a living.
- Based on the climate of South Texas, evaluate your predictions about how the climate affected settlement patterns and use of natural resources? What evidence did you find at the museum that supports your answers?
- Discuss how the types of plants that live in South Texas effected how people adapted to their environments? What evidence did you find at the museum that supports your answers?
- Discuss how the types of animals that live in South Texas effected how people adapted to their environments? What evidence did you find at the museum that supports your answers?
- Compare and Contrast what is it like for you to live in South Texas with one group you learned about in the museum? What evidence did you find at the museum that supports your answers?
- Elaborate on the adaptations you would have to make to live in a different climate.

Post Museum Visit Activities
Based on your trip to the museum…
- Pick one group of people you learned about and create a poster that explains how these people modified the land? For example: irrigation, farming, wildlife preserves, deforestation, habitat destruction, and pollution.
- Create a poster project that explains one or more types of jobs that people did in South Texas during the 1800’s to 1900’s. How did they used their natural resources to accomplish these jobs? Did they have to modify their environments to accomplish these jobs?
- Write a personal narrative. What was your favorite exhibit? How did it make you feel? What sounds did you hear? What sights did you see? Did you use any other senses while you were at the museum?
- Write an expository essay that explains how you would examine an artifact.

Resources for Teachers:
- http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/kids/about_texas/regions/

*Photograph(s) from Witte collection*