

DAILY LIFE IN LAREDO DURING 1840

Subject:

History / English Language Arts

Grades: 5-8

Skills:

- Critical thinking
- Visualization
- Reflection

Materials:

- Pencils
- Colored Pencils/
Crayons
- 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:

Review the Unit of Daily Life to learn more about life in Laredo during 1840.

Use the following pages to explore the topic of planning for an “average” day as a way to compare your life today to that of a young adult in 1840 Laredo.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Life in 1840 was distinctly characterized by the newly formed Republic of the Rio Grande. Knowing what you do about that time and place, think about the following reflection topics. Make notes about your thoughts in the spaces below and use the table to organize your thoughts:

**Sketching a Profile:
Then and Now**

As a young adult of _____ years, what are the three main things you do in a week? This probably involves attending school but will surely include other things. Think about three main activities of a boy and or a girl living in Laredo in 1840. What would they include?

Things to think about as you construct your answer:

- > In 1840 many girls as young as 16 were married in 1840, but very often to someone a bit older than them
- .
- > Schooling was a luxury and very limited to the early years.
- > Obtaining water to drink and wood for heat and cooking were a near-constant activity in many families living in Laredo.
- > Concern for safety was always high. The Republic of the Rio Grande was newly formed and border skirmishes on-going.

Activities in a Week

NOW, AS YOU

**THEN, AS A
BOY IN 1840**

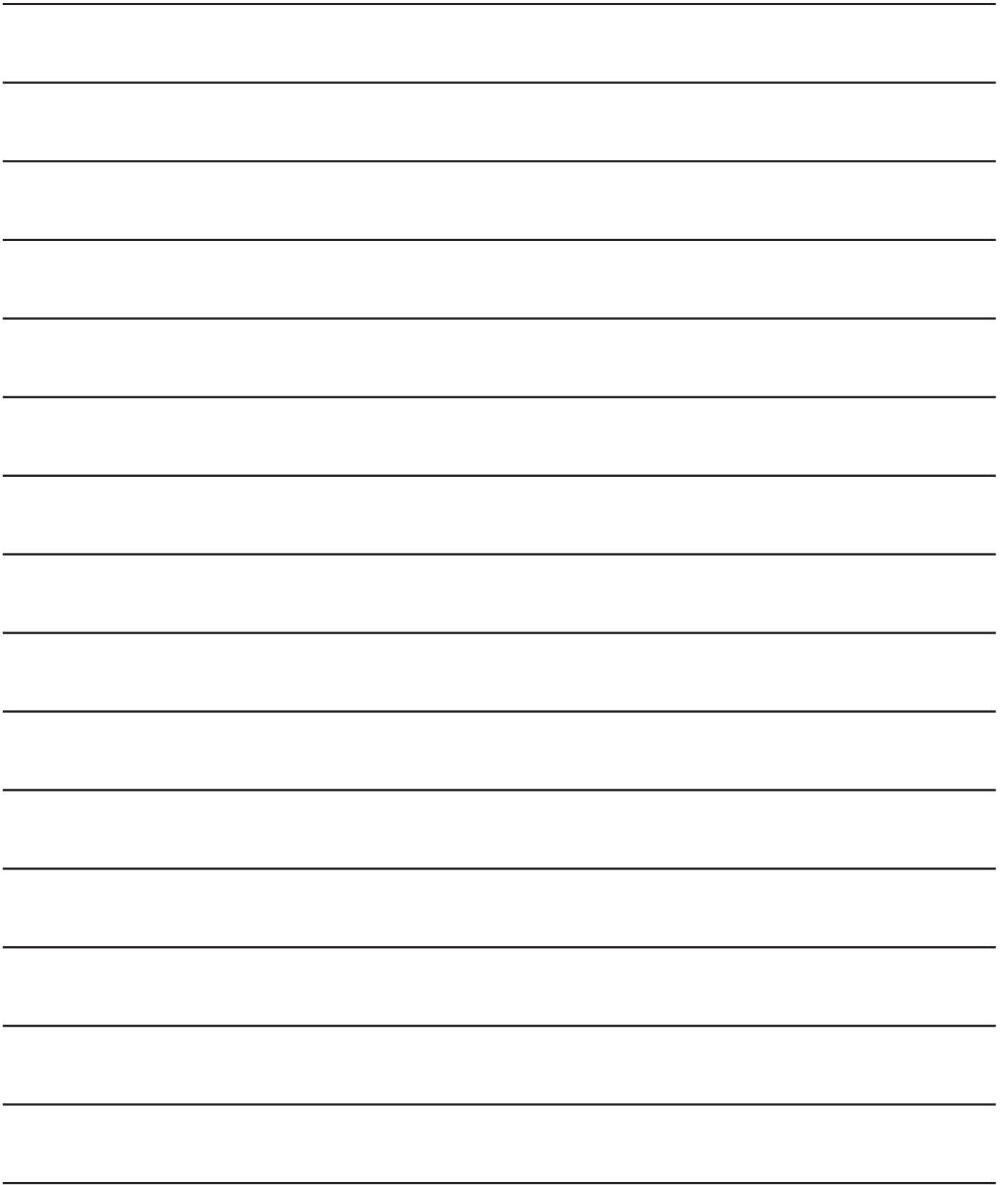
**THEN, AS A
GIRL IN 1840**

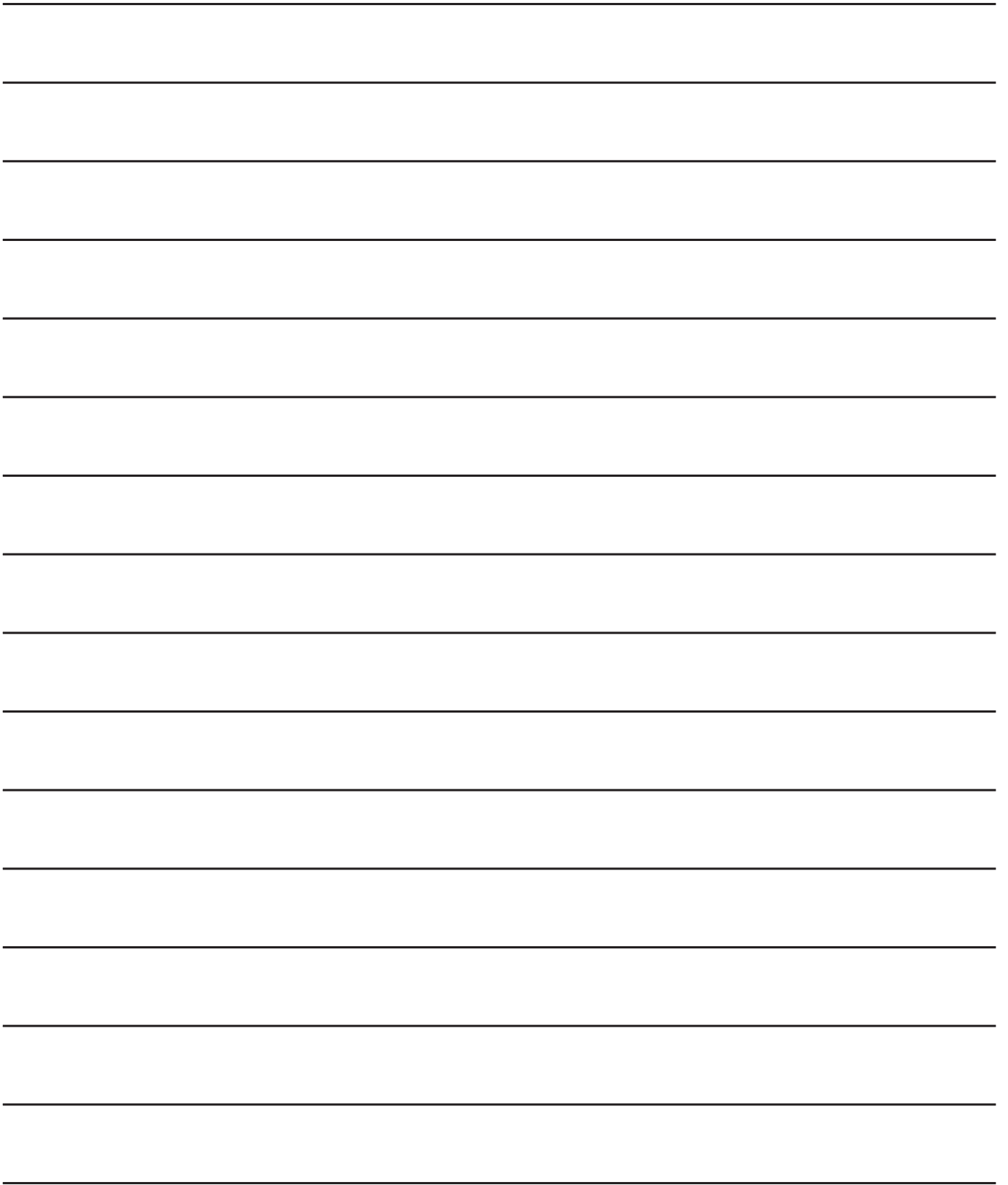
Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Dreaming for the Future

Parents always hope our children see a better future than that which we lived. Undoubtedly this was true during the time of the Republic of the Rio Grande just as it is now.

Knowing what you do about life in the Republic, write a fictionalized letter as if you were a parent, to your son or daughter. It should express your hopes for their future as it relates to their current life in the Laredo. Next, write a fictionalized letter as if you were a parent now to your children, expressing your hopes for their future as it relates to life in Laredo today.





Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Dreaming for the Future: Part II

Using the work you developed in the first part of this activity bring your vision for the future alive through a two-segment video. You can use what you have already imagined about daily life as a basis for your video or you can embellish using the prompts/ideas as described below.

Directions:

Using your smartphone either record yourself or yourself and a partner acting out a one-minute portrayal of life in Laredo in 1840 and today. Take on the role of a person your age for the 1840 segment and act as yourself, for today.

Prompts/Ideas

Waking Up — Portray yourself waking up on a Saturday in Laredo in 1840 and then again in 2022. What are you thinking about in regards to your day? What is similar and what is different? Do you think a young adult in 1840 had the freedom to do as they chose in 1840 in the same way you do?

Making Lunch — Portray yourself getting ready for lunch in 1840 and then again in 2022. What is similar and what is different? Is it likely that your mother made your meal over an open fire in 1840? Is that how you get lunch today?

Washing Laundry—Portray yourself today and then in 1840 doing laundry. Is getting clean water easy for you today? Are you using a mechanical washing machine? If it was 1840 would you wash your clothes in the Rio Grande River or in a big wash basin after hauling water from the river to your house?