

DAILY LIFE IN LAREDO DURING 1840 WATER IS ESSENTIAL

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:

Grade 5:

113.16 Social Studies

110.16 English Language Arts and Reading

Grade 6:

110.18 Social Studies

110.16 English Language Arts and Reading

Grade 7:

110.19 Social Studies

110.16 English Language Arts and Reading

Grade 8:

110.20 Social Studies

110.16 English Language Arts and Reading

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Protecting Our Drinking Water

In 1840 most people obtained water from the Rio Grande River. They often went by donkey to gather it in buckets or barrels. At that time the water was clear and could be drunk without the worry of pollution.

Today our water has been contaminated and needs to be cleaned before we drink it directly from the Rio Grande River. The Unit on Daily Life describes what can contaminate our drinking water. We should make every effort to avoid these so we do not further harm our drinking water.

Circle 5 things that can cause contamination when it is poured into the ground or into a river in the list below:



Gatorade

Milk

Motor oil from a car

A pizza

Household cleaners

Cheerios

Leftover paint in a can

Flea collars

A piece of toast

A cardboard box

Mothballs

Instructions:

Review the Unit of Daily Life to learn more about life in Laredo during 1840. Work with an adult — like a teacher or family member — to help you with the Unit.

Use the following pages to explore the topic of obtaining water for drinking, bathing, and watering animals and gardens during 1840. Use the pages to help you imagine the similarities and differences between your life and that of someone living in Laredo in 1840.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

DAILY USES OF WATER THEN AND NOW

Imagine using water in Laredo today and back in 1840 to do the following activities. Fill in the blank to show when water was used in this way. Use the words "now" or "then". Some activities you might select BOTH then and now. The first one is done for you as an example.

Washing a tea cup in the dishwasher _____ **NOW**

Taking a Shower inside the house _____

Watering the Lawn with a sprinkler _____

Drinking Water from the kitchen faucet _____

Giving Sheep Drinking Water _____

Water the garden _____

Flush the Toilet _____

Bring Water from the
Rio Grande River to your house
by donkey to sell _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Same Water, Different Cycle

This photograph is of the railroad bridge over the Rio Grande River, Laredo, Texas. In the foreground, there are women washing clothes on the river bank. The time period is about 1900, nearly sixty years after the Republic of the Rio Grande's existence in 1840 but you can imagine this is how clothes were washed in 1840, too.



Use the space below to describe 2-3 ways water would have been used in daily life in 1840 and compare it to how you use water today.
