

Learning from our past to influence our future...



What teachers are saying about the program...

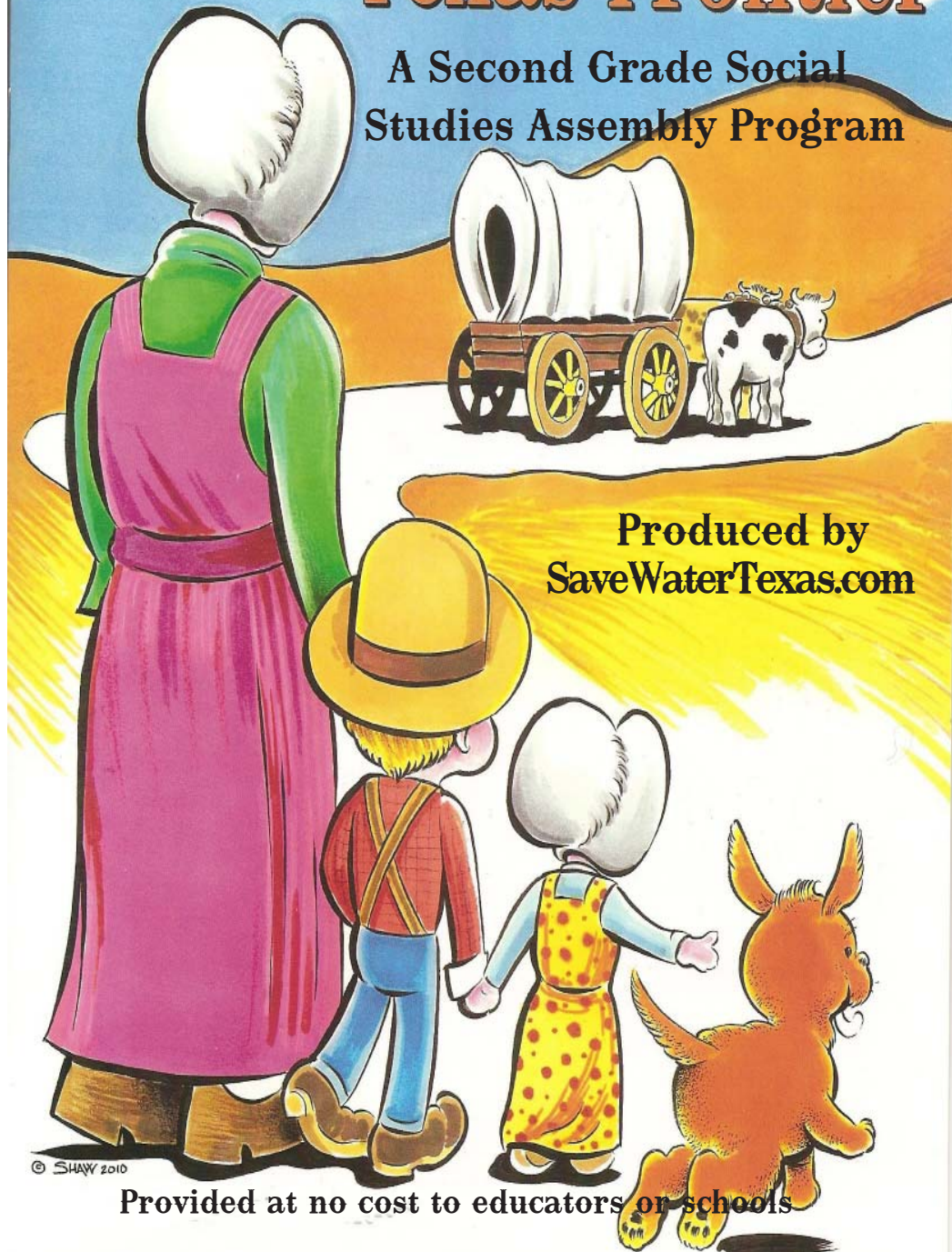
- ◆ “Our students truly enjoyed the program. It was very hands on! The kids were not asked to sit too long either which was nice! I would definitely do it again. Thanks!”
- ◆ “The 2nd grade program was a nice enrichment for our social studies curriculum. The hands-on activities were great and helped the children to better understand things we have been studying. The children and the teachers really enjoyed everything. We would love to do it again next year.”
- ◆ “My class loved it. It was very hands on and we even implemented a writing assignment into it!”
- ◆ “Thanks for giving our students the opportunity to be part of this hands-on program. They enjoyed it and the best part is that now they have a better understanding of our ancestors’ habits and hardships. The students were able to make connections-to-self and to understand abstract concepts that otherwise would be very difficult to teach. We are using the pictures as writing prompts and we are creating a picture board as well to reinforce the concepts that they were exposed to.”

**For additional information about
scheduling Life on the Texas Frontier
Assembly, please contact: Sharon Miller
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Life on the Texas Frontier

A Second Grade Social
Studies Assembly Program



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Just imagine...Your family is moving west to the Texas frontier in the mid-1800's. It promises to be quite an adventure! You'll be leaving behind everything you know to start a new life in a strange place. What will you take with you? How will you travel? Where will you live when you get there? How will you survive?

The SaveWaterTexas team of experienced educators transports students back in time to learn about **Life on the Texas Frontier**...emphasizing how virtually everything they did depended on access to water. The program is aligned to the State's Social Studies 2nd grade TEKS, and is conducted "in the round" with the youngsters pivoting in place to follow the educators as they move to the various exhibit stations.

The exciting, hands-on program first engages the children in discussions about TRANSPORTATION -- how people traveled to Texas; the hardships they experienced on the trail; and the difficult choices they had to make along the way.

The first challenges the settlers faced were to build a temporary SHELTER and to establish a garden for FOOD.



The students learn about corn -- the settlers' main crop and source of food -- and how every part of the plant was utilized in some way. Youngsters try their hand at grinding corn and discover that for children on the frontier, days were long and hard, and there was little time for anything but their chores.

Building an initial 'home' for the family involved harvesting trees. Students see a display of the primitive tools used by the settlers, examine dioramas

detailing the different styles of pioneer homes. They soon learn it would be necessary to create some kind of "mud" to fill the cracks between the logs to keep out the wind and weather. The activities reinforce that water was essential for shelter -- to help the trees grow tall and straight, to make caulk for between the logs, and the need to build their home near a river or stream as their source of drinking water.



Water was necessary to grow cotton -- the crop that made it possible to spin the yarn and thread that was made into the family's clothes. Students examine CLOTHING like that worn by the settlers, and learn that bonnets and long sleeves protected the women from the sun while working outside at their homesteads.

Water was also used to wash clothes on laundry day. The students discover that water had to be carried to the wash tubs before they could "scrub" a shirt on a washboard, "rinse" it in another bucket, and hang it on a clothesline. A heavy iron -- like the one that sits on a wood ironing board -- would have to be heated before it could be used, and the students speculate how this might be accomplished.



Before collecting a coloring book and a recipe to take home for "Journey Cakes" -- made from cornmeal, of course -- the students each have a chance to pump water. In this experience, they soon discover a new respect for WATER and realize that, while it might be a fun assembly activity, it would be quite a chore to fetch and carry water from a stream or well several times a day!