La Belle: The Ship that Changed History
from the Bullock Texas State History Museum

POST-PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Social Studies TEKS
7th Grade: 2B, 21B, 21E, 22A-B, 22 D, 23A-B

Creative Writing Prompt:

If things had gone differently for La Salle and La Belle, Texas might be very different!

a) What could La Salle, his crew, and the French colonists have done differently to ensure the success of their expedition and colony?

b) If Fort St. Louis had survived and La Salle had found the Mississippi River, how would Texas history have changed?

Using your knowledge of La Salle, La Belle and Texas history, write a new ending to the story of La Belle and its impact on Texas.

Alternate: Post Program Reflection

What did you learn today? Use the graphic organizer to make a list of the things you learned about La Salle’s voyage, the discovery of La Belle and the artifacts found aboard the ship.

For more information or questions about this program, email Distance.Learning@TheStoryofTexas.com
IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO RE-WRITE HISTORY!

Using your knowledge of La Salle, *La Belle* and Texas history, write a new ending to the story of *La Belle* and its impact on Texas.
While exploring La Belle, I learned...

About La Salle's voyage...

About the discovery of *La Belle*...

About the artifacts...
LA BELLE RESOURCES

Books:

Raising La Belle by Mark G. Mitchell
This book is for upper primary and middle school students. Mitchell’s unique format presents the discovery of La Belle along with the history of La Salle’s expedition. The book beckons young people to unravel the complete account as it answers leading questions. Sketches of maps and artifacts, along with photographs, accompany the narrative. Mitchell’s book was recipient of the annual Western Writers of America SPUR award for juvenile literature in 2002.

From a Watery Grave: The Discovery and Excavation of La Salle’s Shipwreck, La Belle by James E Bruseth and Toni Turner
This 2005 publication presents the La Salle and La Belle stories in a single volume. Jim Bruseth is the director of the Archaeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission who oversaw the excavation of La Belle. With his wife, Toni Turner, Dr. Bruseth presents the incredible 17th Century story of French exploration in Texas. This historical account is coupled with the 20th Century extraordinary discovery, excavation, and conservation of the ship more than 300 years later. The photography and art are excellent. This book is the 2006 recipient of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) book award for an Outstanding Contribution to the Public Understanding of Archaeology.

Henri Joutel was a childhood friend, companion, and confidant to La Salle on his final expedition to North America. His extraordinary account of the expedition, along with personal notes of explanation, provides excellent primary source documentation. Joutel not only recorded the adventure with exciting detail, he lived to return to France with the journal. It is the principal source of information on the expedition.

The Wreck of the Belle, the Ruin of La Salle by Robert S. Weddle
This scholarly work by a well-known historian provides a thorough look at the social, political, and economic conditions in the 17th Century. It chronicles La Salle and his expedition to cement French control of Louisiana. The details of the ill-fated Texas landfall, loss of two ships and their cargo, and La Salle’s demise are countered with the incredible discovery and excavation of La Belle.

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Online Resources:

Bullock Texas State History Museum
http://www.thestoryoftexas.com/la-belle
Includes images of artifacts, videos and educational resources about La Belle.

The La Salle Odyssey: Texas Historical Commission
The La Salle Odyssey is a series of exhibits in seven museums in the areas of Corpus Christi and Matagorda Bay.

Texas Beyond History: Online La Belle Exhibit
http://www.texasbeyonddhistory.net/belle/
This online exhibit about the La Belle shipwreck gives detailed information about the discovery and excavation of the ship, along with interactive options to explore the shipwreck and investigate the human remains found on board.

NOVA Online - Voyage of Doom
http://www.pbs.org/nova/lasalle/
This website has several interactive and exploratory options, such as "Stories in the Timber," "Explore the Ship," and "Buoyancy Brainteasers."

Texas A&M University, Nautical Archeology
http://nautarch.tamu.edu/CRL/projects/#lasalleshipwreckproject
The La Salle Shipwreck Project describes the conservation methods used for various artifacts found aboard La Belle.

Texas Almanac
http://www.texasalmanac.com/history/highlights/labelle/
Provides detailed descriptions of La Belle and Fort St. Louis.

The Handbook of Texas Online
https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/upl01
Provides detailed descriptions of La Salle's expedition.

Articles:


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