

# TEXAS HISTORY TOP TEN: Oil and Gas

The Bullock Texas State History Museum's website is filled with artifacts, oral histories, highlights from curators, and interesting stories. The Texas History Top Ten tool is perfect if you only have a short amount of time, want a broad overview, or want to find hidden gems about a particular topic. Use this lists to help expand your content knowledge while planning classroom lessons for your students, or send your students on assignment to explore the Top Ten lists on their own.

## Oil and Gas

From the time Spindletop blew its oily stack, Texas has never been the same. The creation of the oil and gas industry affected the infrastructure and culture of Texas and also impacts the whole world.

- 1. [Yearbook](#)**  
New London High School senior's yearbook indicating those who did or did not survive a natural gas explosion at the school; the explosion resulted in an odor being added to natural gas for safety
- 2. [Early gasoline pumps](#)**  
Early gas pumps and gas stations provided a very different experience from modern pumps and stations
- 3. [Snake bite kit](#)**  
Snake bite kits like this were issued to workers of the Newmont Oil Company in the 1940s
- 4. [Oil field "Christmas tree"](#)**  
An oil field "Christmas tree" is an assembly of valves, spools, and fittings used in an oilfield
- 5. [Fur trimmed beaded opera cape](#)**  
Cape belonging to Texas oil magnate Mae Belcher, a self-professed fortune hunter, who would make and lose millions of dollars in oil



*This oil field "Christmas tree" controlled the flow of oil out of the well. Image courtesy Railroad Commission of Texas, Austin*



*Portable Mud Tester, 1965. Image courtesy Petroleum Museum, Midland*

- 6. [Portable mud tester](#)**  
A machine used to test oil well drilling fluid, "mud", in the oil field
- 7. [Roughnecks Campfire Story](#)**  
Hover over the characters and select "Roughnecks" to explore how when Spindletop blew its stack, it changed Texas forever
- 8. [Chronology of Texas Oil and Gas](#)**  
Select the "Roughneck" icon on the timeline (unselect "Texas History Timeline") to trace the chronology of the oil and gas industry
- 9. [Woman Salesman to "Wildcatter"](#)**  
Ms. Irene Hathaway was a traveling encyclopedia saleswoman from Kansas who turned "wildcatter" in Texas
- 10. [The Town of Electra](#)**  
A story of a special house in an oil town named for a little girl on a cattle ranch

## Types of Resources

The Bullock Museum has a diversity of resources and voices to tell the many Stories of Texas. While using the Texas History Top Ten, explore a variety of tools:

### Artifacts

Get an up-close look at the artifacts the Museum has displayed, and learn about their importance in Texas history. *View the full Artifact Gallery [here](#).*

### Campfire Stories

Using the mosaic embedded in the Museum's floor, interact with Texans from the past gathered around a campfire to share their stories. Discover how people shape Texas's past and future. *View the mosaic [here](#).*

### Special Exhibitions and Events

Explore some of the stories and artifacts from the Bullock Museum's past temporary exhibitions and special events focusing on unique aspects of Texas history. *View all past special exhibitions [here](#).*

### Texas History Timeline

Use the interactive timeline tool to mix and match different events and stories to see how they line up in the chronology of Texas history. *View the full timeline [here](#).*

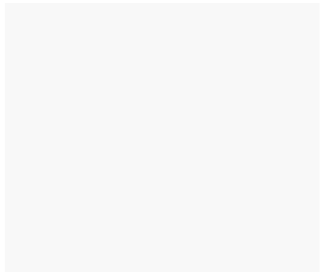
### Texas Story Project

Read oral history stories submitted by diverse Texans about their connections to the past. The Texas Story Project is best for finding stories that you wouldn't find in textbooks, like family stories and Texas folklore, and are generally not written by professional historians. *View the full Texas Story Project [here](#).*

### Assorted Resources

Watch videos or participate in an [interactive distance learning program](#).

New Top Ten lists will be added over time to round out the full scope of the Texas history curriculum, so keep coming back for updates. Looking for more resources on these topics beyond these Top Ten, or curious how other teachers have used what is found on these lists? [Email Education@TheStoryofTexas.com](mailto:Email_Education@TheStoryofTexas.com).



*Discover the AT-6A "Texan" Airplane in the Artifact Gallery*

