

# TEXAS RANGERS AND TECHNOLOGY

**Grade Level Focus:** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Topic:** Texas Rangers and Technology

**Compelling Question:** How have the Texas Rangers continued to exist and thrive for almost 200 years?

**TEKS:** 4.3(D), 4.18(B), 4.19(A)

**Materials:** Link to video, hand out images

## Background Information:

The Texas Rangers were created in 1823 to provide defense for Stephen F. Austin’s new Texas colony. Over the last two centuries, the Rangers have evolved from frontier fighters to frontier law enforcement to a modern investigative force. Modern day Texas Rangers are the crime scene investigators for Texas with statewide jurisdiction. They help solve major felonies (robbery, murder, assault), public corruption cases (a judge stealing money from the state), and major disasters (hurricanes, mass shootings).

Engage	<p>How do you think the Rangers have continued to succeed in their job to police and protect Texas for 200 years?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask students about their theories</li> </ul>
Explore	<p>Spot The Difference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pass out or display image of two Texas Rangers from different time periods.</li> <li>• Have students point out differences in technology between the two pictures</li> <li>• Ask students how different pieces of new technology help the Rangers.</li> </ul>
Explain	<p>Hear from Modern Day Rangers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Much of the Rangers’ success and longevity can be attributed to the ability to adapt to the changes in law enforcement and society. Modern-day Texas Rangers continue the tradition of adaptability by staying at the forefront of innovation and technology used to investigate and combat crime in Texas”</i> -Major Corey Lain of Texas Ranger Company “F”</li> <li>• The Leica Scanner is an example of modern Ranger technology. It is a tool to investigate and record crime scenes. Show students video about a Texas Ranger speaking about the Leica scanner. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Watch from time stamp 6:52 to time stamp 8:40</li> <li>○ Link directly to video: <a href="https://wccc.tv/video/texas-ranger-conversations-jake-burson/">https://wccc.tv/video/texas-ranger-conversations-jake-burson/</a></li> <li>○ Alternative directions to get to video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Go to <a href="http://www.texasranger.org">www.texasranger.org</a></li> <li>▪ Go to Education section in right hand menu bar</li> <li>▪ Click on Recommended Viewing in left hand menu bar</li> <li>▪ Click on the link for Episode 32: Texas Ranger Conversations- Jake Burson #32</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Please note that this video is considered a primary resource.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Other technology that the Rangers have adapted for their needs include: digital cameras for taking pictures of crime scenes and evidence; online lists and databases for finger print matching; voice recorders to record witness</li> </ul>

	testimony; computers for record and report keeping; cars and airplanes for faster and more convenient travel; and much, much more.
Elaborate/ Evaluate	Independent Reflections <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ask students to think of a new piece of technology that the Rangers should use. Ask them to write it down and explain why it would be useful to the Texas Rangers.</li></ul>



Texas Ranger from the 1800s



Texas Ranger from 2018