

The Oklahoma Explorers trunk is an interpretive lesson that features hands-on objects utilized by early explorers that travelled across present-day Oklahoma. With the hands-on approach, the student will gain necessary information on early American exploration, geography, Oklahoma from the 1500s-1800s, and the lives of the people who travelled into the unknown.



Philosophy

By handling the items and performing the activities included in the trunk, the student will gain a greater understanding of the life and experiences of the early explorer, as well as the landscape and geography of mid-America.

Grade Level

The Oklahoma Explorers trunk is designed for fourth grade students and older but teachers can easily modify the lesson to fit other grade levels.

Topics Covered by the Learning Activities Include:

- Explorers
- Explorer lifestyles
- Geography of mid-America
- Early Oklahoma

Trunk Contents include:

- Spanish conquistador helmet
- Writing equipment
- Compass and telescopes
- Plant press
- Flags of early explorer's nations

PASS Objectives for OK Explorer Trunk

- Use information located in resources such as encyclopedias, timelines, visual images, atlases, maps, globes, and computer-based technologies.
- Demonstrate the ability to utilize research materials, such as encyclopedias, almanacs, atlases, newspapers, photographs, visual images, and computer-based technologies.
- Interpret geographic information using primary and secondary sources, atlases, charts, graphs, and visual images.
- Identify, use, and interpret basic political, physical, and thematic maps and globes.
- Describe the causes of movement of large groups of people into the United States from other countries and within the United States now and long ago.
- Examine the reasons for, the problems faced in, and the results of key expeditions of Portugal, Spain, France, the Netherlands, and England (e.g., Columbus, Ponce de León, Magellan, Coronado, Cortés, Hudson, Raleigh, and La Salle) and the competition for control of North America.
- Identify, evaluate and draw conclusions from different kinds of maps, graphs, charts, diagrams, and other sources and representations, such as aerial and shuttle photographs, satellite-produced images, the geographic information system (GIS), encyclopedias, almanacs, dictionaries, atlases, and computer-based technologies; and construct and use maps of locales, regions, continents, and the world that demonstrate an understanding of mental mapping, relative location, direction, latitude, longitude, key, legend, map symbols, scale, size, shape, and landforms.
- Apply the concepts of scale, distance, direction, relative location, latitude and longitude.
- Construct and use maps, globes, graphs, charts, models, and databases to analyze spatial distributions and patterns.
- Identify, evaluate, and explain the relationships between the geography of Oklahoma and its historical development by using different kinds of maps, graphs, charts, diagrams, and other representations such as photographs, satellite-produced images, and computer-based technologies.
- Explain the significance of early Spanish and French expeditions (e.g., Coronado, Oñate, and LaHarpe).
- Evaluate the lasting impact of American exploration, including the Pike, Wilkinson, and Long expeditions.