This lesson for an elementary school social studies class encourages students to see how their immediate area has changed over time and how those changes reflected the history of their state and region. Students analyze a series of images related to a major thoroughfare located near their school, a road first used as a Native American trading route that over time became the highway they see today.

### Daily Lesson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus of Lesson</strong></td>
<td>Explain how the Atascosito Road affected the growth of southeastern Texas.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TEKS</strong></td>
<td>4.6A Apply geographic tools, including grid systems, legends, symbols, scales, and compass roses to construct and interpret maps. 4.12B Explain how geographic factors such as, climate-, transportation, and natural resources have influenced the location of economic activities in Texas. 4.12E Explain how developments in transportation and communication have influenced economic activities in Texas.</td>
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</table>
| **Guiding Questions** | • Why were roads important for the development of Texas?  
• How are roads used today? Why are they still important? |
| **Vocabulary of Instruction** | Coushatta Indians  
transportation  
trace  
settlement  
colony |
| **Advance Preparation** | Images and slides are located at the following:  
http://prezi.com/eme0z0v396dj/present/?auth_key=3w6xxz7&follow=qxm5ivjs2p1t |
| **Teacher Notes** | This supplemental lesson is best taught at the end of the 4th grade when students have had foundational learning about Indian tribes of Texas, colonization of Texas, Texas Revolution, and cattle drives. Conversely, this lesson could be broken into mini-parts as each unit (as listed above) is taught.  
Slide 1 – Atascosito Road  
• Introduction of presentation  
• Marker is located in Liberty, Texas. This town was originally called Atascosito and was established by the Spanish in 1757 as a military post.  
Slide 2 – Contemporary images from the Atascocita neighborhoods  
Slide 3 – Coushatta Trace  
• The Atascosito Road was originally used by Native American tribes in southeast Texas.  
Slide 4 – Atascosito District  
• A large area in southeast Texas including the city of Harrisburg (later known}
as Houston)
- The first city in the district was Atascosito (later known as Liberty).
- Map inside the frame: map that locates the Spanish settlements in southeast Texas and Louisiana
- Map of Spanish Texas
- A home located in Atascosito

Slide 5 – Atascosito Road – 1820s
- Many settlers immigrating into Texas used this road. It is mentioned by some of the settlers moving to Austin’s Colony near the city of San Felipe – across the Brazos River.
- Map shows the colonies in Texas and the route of the Atascosito Road.

Slide 6 – Atascosito Road – Battle of San Jacinto
- Mexican colonels Urrea and Sesma used parts of the Atascosito Road to move their troops toward the San Jacinto battlefield.
- Inside the frame: a Mexican soldier

Slide 7 – Atascosito Road – cattle drives in the 1860s
- Ranchers in southeast Texas used the Atascosito Road as a transportation route from Texas to Louisiana. Inside Louisiana, the road changes name to the Opelousas Trail.

**Mini-Lesson**

1. Tell the students that we will be learning about an old trail that became an old road that finally became a major highway in southeastern Texas.
2. Begin Prezi and follow slides. (see notes above)

**Learning Applications**

1. Put students into groups of 4 and have them discuss the following questions: How are roads used today? Why are roads still important?
2. Have each group discuss with the whole class.

**Closure**

1. Highlight the ways that the Atascosito Road was important to the development of Texas.
### Day 2

**Focus of Lesson**  
Identify and compare primary and secondary sources that discuss the Atascosito Road.

**TEKS**  
4.21A Differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as computer software; interviews; biographies; oral, print, and visual material; documents; and artifacts to acquire information about the United States and Texas.  
4.21D Identify different points of view about an issue, topic, historical event, or current event.

**Guiding Questions**  
- What is the difference between a primary source and a secondary source?  
- How can we use different kinds of sources to learn about our history?

**Vocabulary of Instruction**  
Primary source  
Secondary source

**Advance Preparation**  
Provide handouts for students:  
Secondary Sources:  
- *Atascosito Road* – Texas State Historical Association Handbook  
  ([http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/exa02](http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/exa02))  
- *Moss Bluff Rebel* (excerpt with a description of the Atascosito Road)  
- *Proceedings of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association* (1914) (excerpt)

**Teacher Notes**  
(A primary source needs to be located and can substitute for one of the secondary sources. Then students can compare a primary and several secondary sources.)

**Mini-Lesson**  
1. Have students examine the handouts. Discuss the differences between a primary source and a secondary source and have students identify which handout is primary and which is secondary.  
2. Put students into groups of 6. Assign one handout to each group. Explain that they are reading different sources about the Atascosito Road.  
3. Tell each group to read their handout and determine a description of the Atascosito Road. Give groups about 15 minutes.  
4. Provide time for each group to discuss the description of the road.

**Learning Applications**  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TSHA Handbook</th>
<th>Moss Rebel</th>
<th>Primary Source Title (tbd)</th>
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**Closure**  
- Discuss how primary and secondary sources help us learn about events in the past.