



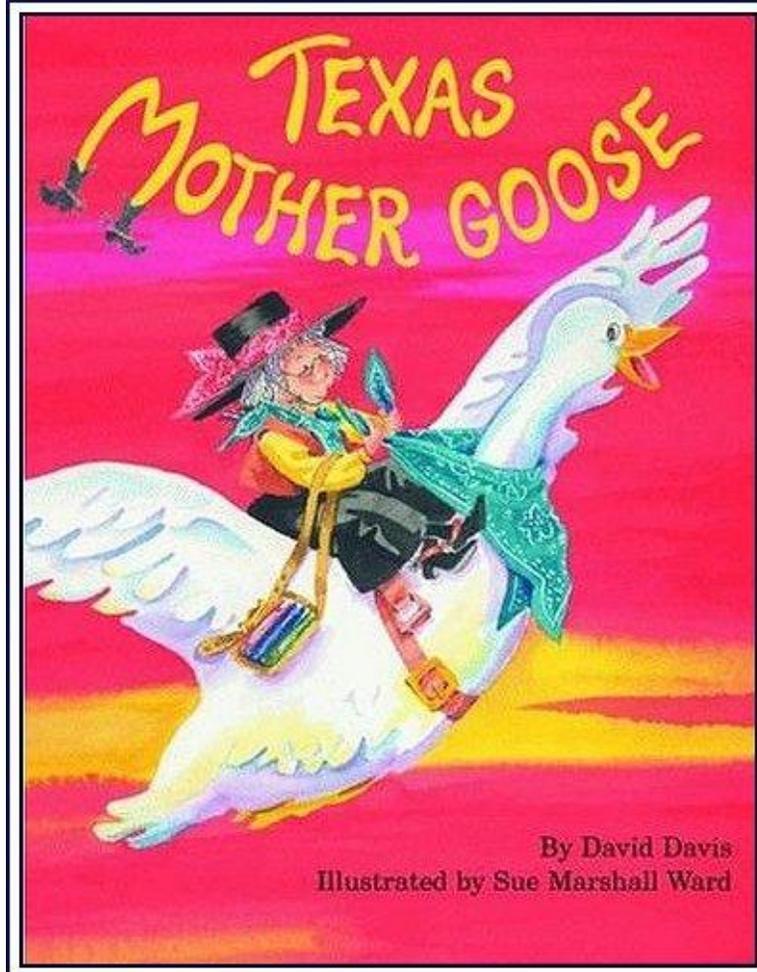
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# CURRICULUM GUIDE

## ***TEXAS MOTHER GOOSE***

*Study guide created by David Davis----- Reproducible*



**By Award-Winning Writer David Davis**  
**Illustrated by Sue Ward**

To schedule events contact David at [www.davidrdavis.com](http://www.davidrdavis.com) or email: [lastditchus@yahoo.com](mailto:lastditchus@yahoo.com)

*Texas Mother Goose* ISBN 978-1-58980-369-5

## Book Description

Classic Mother Goose tales are retold with a Texas twist. This fun Texas romp through over fifty nursery rhymes yields such results as "Mary Had a White-Faced Calf," "There Was an Old Cowgirl Who Lived in a Boot," "Cactus Jack Horner," and "Twinkle, Twinkle, Texas Star." With its unforgettable Texan flavor combined with vibrant, colorful illustrations, this book will delight all ages. Lively vocabulary encourages young readers to laugh and learn as Humpty Dumpty turns into a plate of huevos rancheros after his fall and Little Miss Toni eats her biscuit and jerky.

**FUN FACT:** One of the poems in *Texas Mother Goose* is "On Lacy's Farm." Lacy was the last name of Mr. Davis's grandfather. There really was a real Lacy Farm located near the real Texas town named New Summerfield, Texas. There really was a Tipton's Store. Margie is the name of Mr. Davis's mother, and Bennie is the name of Mr. Davis's aunt. Margie really did make cocoa milk for Bennie when they were children.



## Reading Activities

- Read *Texas Mother Goose* and then read the original Mother Goose rhymes. Compare the original Mother Goose rhymes the *Texas Mother Goose* versions. How are they alike? How are they different?
- Talk a little bit about where the Mother Goose rhymes come from: They come from old children's rhymes from many countries. Many generations of children learned these rhymes. They were passed down by word of mouth before they were ever collected in a book.
- Read *Texas Mother Goose* and see if students can name some "Texas lore" or objects named in the poems: (ex. Pony, cactus, Mission San Jose, The Alamo, cowboy hats, boots, saddle, etc.)

## Discussion Questions

1. Where did the *Texas Mother Goose* rhymes come from?
2. *Texas Mother Goose* is a parody. Do you know what "parody" means?
3. What is a tamale? What is a taco? What is a tortilla? Chili relleno? Enchilada? Have you ever eaten these?
4. Do you know what the Spanish word *mercado* means in English?
5. Before there were grocery stores, folks shopped at open air markets for all of their foods. There were no refrigerators back then, so they had to buy lots of their food fresh every day. At The Mercado you could buy clothes, food, and most anything. Modern "Trade Days" or "Flea Markets" look something like an old Mercado. Have any of you been to a "Trade Day" or "Flea Market"?

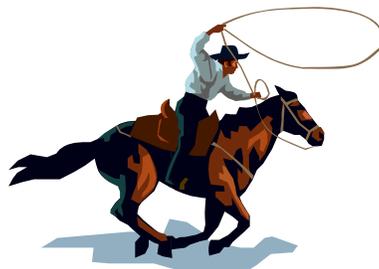
## Cross Curriculum Activities

### Science

- The Texas armadillo is the *Nine-Banded Armadillo*. Did you know that baby armadillos are always born as identical quadruplets? That means they are all exactly alike. Armadillos like water and have two funny ways to cross a river. They walk across on the bottom of the river, or they suck lots of air into their stomachs so they can float and “dog paddle” across. They are very good swimmers!
- Did you know javelinas aren’t pigs even though they look like them? They are *peccaries*. The name javelina comes from the word for a sharp spear called a javelin. Javelinas earned that name because they have very sharp teeth. Another name for the Texas javelina is *collared peccary*. You wouldn’t want to have dinner with a javelina. Their favorite meal is prickly pear cactus! Ouch!
- Did you know that Longhorn cattle can have horns eight feet across? These wild cattle used to roam free in Texas. They came from a cross between cattle the Spanish brought to the new world and the cattle that settlers brought from England. Longhorns were lean, mean, and could run really fast. They needed little water. Longhorns were tough customers that could live through the hot summers and cold winters in Texas.
- Can you name some other animals found in Texas?

### History

- The Mother Goose rhymes are very old. Some are said to go back at least to the 1600s. How did children live and dress in that time? They had no video games, computers, TV, or radio. What games did they play? How did their mothers cook? There was no electricity. How did they light their homes?
- Which city is home to The Alamo and Mission San Jose?
- Everyone thinks about cowboys when they think about Texas. Here are some facts about cowboys.
  - The first cowboys were Mexican *Vaqueros*. Texas cowboys adopted their manner of dress. Every piece of clothing a cowboy wore helped him with his work:
    - Boots protected his feet from thorns, brush and snakes. Their high heels helped to keep his feet in the stirrups when he rode his horse.
    - His wide brimmed hat protected him from the hot sun and rain.
    - The spurs he wore on his boots helped him control his horse.
    - The leather chaps a cowboy wore when working protected his legs from thorns and brush as he herded cattle through rough country.
    - The long neckerchief he wore around his neck protected him from dust kicked up by a herd of cattle.



## Art

- Have students do one of the following:
  - Draw a picture of a cowboy. Be sure to include the important items of clothing mentioned above!
  - Draw and color each of the six flags of Texas.
  - Draw your favorite *Texas Mother Goose* character.
  - Draw pictures of some of the Texas animals named in the book.
  - Draw, color, and cut out the *Texas Mother Goose* version of the character “Humpty Dumpty.”
- Have each student in the class illustrate one of the Texas Mother Goose rhymes. Put them all together as a book and call it *The (Your Class) Mother Goose*. Have each student hold up his drawing as you read that rhyme.

## Writing

- Have students write their own short tale or rhyme about one of the *Texas Mother Goose* characters.

## Thematic Connections

- Family: Mother Goose rhymes have been passed down for generations. Ask students: Are there any stories passed down in your family? Ask your mom or dad. Are there any recipes passed down in your family? Ask mom or dad about it and bring the recipe class. Maybe you can bring a taste for your classmates!

Here’s one Texas recipe that has been passed down:

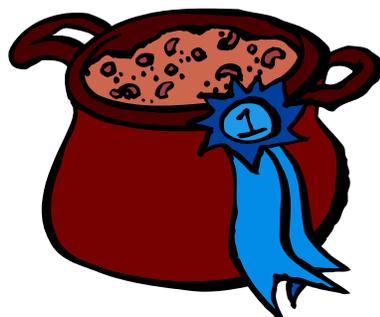
## Homemade Chili

### Ingredients:

4 pounds of chili meat, hamburger,  
deer meat, or ground turkey  
2 onions  
1 bell pepper  
2 12oz. cans of diced tomatoes  
1 8oz. can of tomato sauce  
4 tbs. of chili powder  
Cooking oil  
Salt  
Red pepper

### Directions:

1. Cover the bottom of the pot with oil.
2. Brown the meat, chopped onions, and chopped bell pepper in pot.
3. Add 1 tablespoon of chili powder per pound of meat.
4. Add water (cover the meat in pot.)
5. Add cans of diced tomatoes and can of tomato sauce.  
Add salt and red pepper to taste.
6. Simmer to taste.
7. Thicken with Masa Harina if you wish.



### Internet Resources:

#### *Mother Goose Rhymes and Links:*

<http://www.amherst.edu/~rjyanco94/literature/mothergoose/rhymes/menu.html>

#### *Rhyme Zone: Mother Goose Rhymes:*

<http://www.rhymezone.com/g/goose>

#### *The Handbook of Texas Online:*

Everything about Texas

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/index.html>

### What Others Are Saying:

“...Davis has lassoed the familiar rhymes and filled them with a plethora of places and folklore, from Galveston to Ft. Worth...” –*School Library Journal Review*

“Davis is in fine form as he adapts some familiar nursery rhymes to Texas and western culture...Great fun. As with many children's books, parents and grandparents may have more fun with the gags than the kids do.” –Syndicated Newspaper Columnist Glenn Dromgoole, 2007 (Dromgoole named *Texas Mother Goose* to his **2007 Top Ten List of books about Texas**, the only picture book so honored.)

“Over fifty classic nursery rhymes are rewritten with a western and/or Texas twist. This book includes everything from ‘Twinkle, Twinkle, Texas Star’ to ‘There was an Old Cowgirl Who Lived in a Boot.’ There are some hilarious versions of the rhymes, such as ‘Padre Pedro Picked a Passel of Peppers on the Pedernales’.... Many of the rhymes are short and have their own illustrations that are colorful, lovely, and fun. Adorable illustrations of children and animals fill every page, along with two or three rhymes...The western slant opens up some new vocabulary for young readers from other areas who are not familiar with western culture. Lines such as ‘Merchant Molly munched a tamale while shopping at the Mercado’ give these poems a lot of spice.” --*Children’s Literature Review*

### Answers to Discussion Questions

1. *Texas Mother Goose* rhymes are based on the old folk rhymes known as The Mother Goose Rhymes.
2. A parody is a funny imitation of another style or work. *Texas Mother Goose* adds Texas culture to the old Mother Goose Rhymes to create a fun book about Texas.
3. These are all Mexican Food dishes.
4. It means “market.”

## About the Author



David Davis is a humorist, cartoonist, writer, and speaker. He grew up in San Antonio, Texas. Most of his stories draw on his Texas roots, and his “baby-boomer” love of music.

Davis is the author of *Jazz Cats* and *Ten Redneck Babies*, both of which were named to the Children’s Choice Top 100 list. *Jazz Cats* was a finalist for the Texas Golden Spur Award, as well. His satirical *Night Before Christmas* books are perennial comedy best-sellers.

In addition to his books, David has published pen-and-ink artwork, cartoons, poems, humor, and short stories in various magazines and newspapers, including *Travels with Grandpaw*, a popular internet comic strip about old time Texas, featured at a genealogy website. He won an award from the Mississippi Press Association for his political cartooning some years ago.

Davis is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. He is an active speaker and presenter at educational conferences and schools, and he has been a featured author at the Texas Book Festival. David Davis lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

### David’s Picture Books

(Pelican Publishing Co.)

- ❖ *Texas Mother Goose*, ISBN 978-1-58980-369-5
- ❖ *Rock ‘n’ Roll Dogs*, ISBN 978-1-58980-349-7
- ❖ *Librarian’s Night Before Christmas*, ISBN 978-1-58980-336-7
- ❖ *Texas Zeke and the Longhorn*, ISBN 978-1-58980-348-0
- ❖ *Ten Redneck Babies: A Southern Counting Book*, ISBN 1-58980-232-2
- ❖ *The Nurse’s Night Before Christmas*, ISBN 1-58980-152-0
- ❖ *Jazz Cats*, ISBN 1-56554-859-0
- ❖ *Redneck Night Before Christmas*, ISBN 1-56554-293-2
- ❖ *Trucker’s Night Before Christmas*, ISBN 1-56554-656-3

### School Appearances

All programs are *interactive*, flexible, and tailored to the specified age groups. His comic skit and reading featuring his picture book *Jazz Cats* (with a mock impromptu jazz band featuring kids) will delight young and old alike.

David encourages children to hold on to writing, drawing, and musical dreams using easy-going humor, and short bits of his own life story. His talks and skits show children that reading is fun—and so is writing. Mr. Davis’s *Tips for Taking the TAKS Test--and Writing in General* entertains and teaches at the same time. Kids won’t be just sitting on their bottoms when Mr. Davis shows up. All skits feature the *children themselves* as players. **Get ready for fun!**

**Books:** Pelican Publishing Company offers a 40-percent discount on all books for a special event. For information about ordering books, call the School Sales Manager at Pelican Publishing Company, 1-800-843-1724 Ext.319.

### Awards and Honors:

*Jazz Cats:* Named to the 2002 Children’s Choice Award Top 100 List, Finalist for the Texas Golden Spur Award for Children’s Literature 2005, Accelerated Reader Program Selection.

*Ten Redneck Babies:* Named to the 2005 Children’s Choice Award Top 100 List.

*Texas Zeke and the Longhorn* and *Rock ‘n’ Roll Dogs:* Accelerated Reader Program Selection