

Pre-Visit Guide

Grade 4

Overview: The Magoffins of El Paso

The family of Joseph and Octavia Magoffin had a profound impact in the growth and development of early El Paso. In this lesson, students learn about the family's contributions to building early El Paso through activities including active notetaking, analyzing an historical map of the city, and mapping a timeline of Magoffin's life, from his birth in Mexico to his family's settlement in west Texas.

Social Studies TEKS

(6) Geography. The student uses geographic tools to collect, analyze, and interpret data. The student is expected to:

(A) apply geographic tools, including grid systems, legends, symbols, scales, and compass roses, to construct and interpret maps.

(8) Geography. The student understands the location and patterns of settlement and the geographic factors that influence where people live. The student is expected to:

(A) identify and explain clusters and patterns of settlement in Texas at different time periods such as prior to the Texas Revolution, after the building of the railroads, and following World War II;

(B) describe and explain the location and distribution of various towns and cities in Texas, past and present; and

(C) explain the geographic factors such as landforms and climate that influence patterns of settlement and the distribution of population in Texas, past and present.

(21) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology. The student is expected to:

(A) 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;

(C) organize and interpret information in outlines, reports, databases, and visuals, including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps.

Materials

- Historical images for display/distribution
- Graphic organizers
- Magoffin timeline
- Magoffin Home site introductory video <https://youtu.be/gEaU653U03A>

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Vocabulary

- **adobe:** sundried brick made from straw and clay
- **lime plaster:** a coating made of sand, water, and lime (calcium lime) that protects walls and ceilings. It is very durable, water resistant, and more flexible than cement plaster.

Historical Context

Joseph Magoffin and his wife Octavia moved with their family to El Paso in the 1860s after inheriting 1,280 acres of land there from his father. He became actively involved in the life of the city where he settled. Joseph worked in farming and real estate in the area and served as a U.S. customs officer. He co-founded the State National Bank and was a supporter of railroad development in the growing city. Magoffin was elected mayor of El Paso four times. The contributions of the Magoffin family are recognized as being instrumental in the early growth of this Texas city.

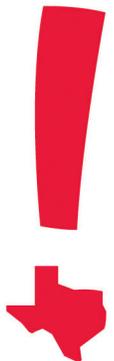
Activity: At Home with the Magoffins

20 minutes

- Display or distribute the **At Home image** without providing historical context. [Note: This is an 1887 photograph of the Magoffin family's home in El Paso, Texas. Joseph Magoffin and his wife, Octavia, are standing together on the left.]
- Have students write a reflection of their observations of the image. Ask them to include ideas about when and where the photo was taken, and who the people in the image might be.
- Share student reflections. Take class notes to capture students' ideas.
- Explain the photo. Ask students to identify how their reflections matched or didn't match the historical context of the photo.
- As an extension, have students write a fictional first or third-person narrative about the events of the day that resulted in the At Home photograph.

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Activity: Early El Paso

15 minutes

- Display or distribute the **Bird's Eye View Map of El Paso**. Enlarge the image if needed.
- Explain what a “bird’s-eye view” map is and how and why this kind of map provides useful information.
- Ask students to identify on the map any geographical features that helped make El Paso an appealing place to settle.
- Have students work individually or in small groups to identify and circle these features on the map:
 - Mount Franklin
 - the approximate date of the map
 - El Paso County Courthouse
 - the Magoffin home
 - evidence of transportation

Answer Key

Mount Franklin

located at the top of the map

map date

1885, written in pencil near the bottom of the map. This is incorrect. The map dates to 1886.

**county
courthouse**



tallest building in the city; at the intersection of Kansas and E. Overland Streets

Magoffin home



L-shaped building east of the city; the home is surrounded by a large orchard of fruit trees.

**evidence of
transportation**



evidence along the streets and bridges including pedestrians, horse-drawn buggies, people on horseback, mule-drawn streetcar near the Magoffin Home

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Activity: Historic El Paso

15 minutes

- Distribute and preview the **Magoffin House Media Organizer**. Tell students to fill in the worksheet as they watch the video.
- View the Magoffin Home introductory video found at youtu.be/gEaU653U03A
- Review students' fill-in-the-blank answers and question answers after the video.

Answer Key: Fill-in-the-Blank

Joseph and **Octavia** Magoffin moved into the home in **El Paso** in the year **1877**. The home was built with **adobe** brick. The walls are **16** feet high. **Lime plaster** covered the walls and kept them dry.

Answer Key: Questions

- Where was Joseph Magoffin born? (Mexico)
- From whom did Joseph inherit the land in El Paso? (his father)
- What type of agriculture surrounded the Magoffin home? (fruit orchards)
- How many generations of the Magoffin family lived in the home? (four)
- What other interesting facts did you learn? (answers will vary)

Activity: Mapping Magoffin

20 minutes

- Distribute and preview the **Mapping Magoffin Timeline worksheet**, and the **U.S. Map**.
- Have students work individually or in pairs to complete the activity.
- Share responses and check for students' accuracy.

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Assessment

Evaluate student media organizers and map for completeness and understanding.

Take-home Extension

Distribute **Magoffin Family KWL charts**. Tell students to complete the K and W columns of the chart and bring it back to class. They will complete the chart as a Post-Visit activity.

Additional Resources & Extensions

The Portal to Texas History

<https://texashistory.unt.edu>

The Handbook of Texas Online

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook>

Library of Congress

<https://loc.gov>

Urban Plan—An Online Game

Build a city, make it grow, and try to get the highest population.

<http://www.kidsgamehouse.com/games/urban-plan>

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Resource Image: Portrait of Joseph Magoffin

Portrait of Joseph Magoffin, c1870s. Courtesy of Magoffin Home State Historic Site.



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Activity Image: At Home with the Magoffins

Courtesy of Magoffin Home State Historic Site



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Activity Image: Bird's Eye View Map of El Paso

Augustus Koch (1840-?). *Bird's Eye View of El Paso, El Paso County Texas*, 1886. Lithograph, 20 x 30 in. Lithographer unknown.



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Activity Image: Mapping Magoffin U.S. Map

Mitchell, Samuel. *Map of the United States, And Territories*, c1867.



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Magoffin Family KWL Chart

KNOW	WANT TO KNOW	LEARNED



Activity: Magoffin Home Introductory Video Graphic Organizer

Use this organizer to take notes on key facts while you watch the Magoffin Home State Historic Site's introduction video.

Fill in the blanks.

_____ and _____ Magoffin moved into the home in _____ in the year _____.

The home was built with _____ brick. The walls are _____ feet high. The walls are covered by _____ . This keeps them dry.

Answer the questions.

Where was Joseph Magoffin born? _____

From whom did Joseph inherit the land in El Paso? _____

What type of agriculture surrounded the Magoffin home? _____

How many generations of the Magoffin family lived in the home? _____

Write three other facts you learned while watching the video:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



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Activity: Mapping Magoffin Map and Timeline

Read the timeline below and study the U.S. map. On the map, circle the places where Joseph Magoffin lived. Draw a line tracing Magoffin's journey. Then fill in Magoffin's age in each box on the timeline.



1837 Chihuahua, Mexico

- Joseph Magoffin was born. He lived with his mother in Mexico while was a young child.
- Joseph was _____ years old when he lived here.



1845 Lexington, Kentucky

- Joseph and his brother, Samuel, moved to Lexington with their father and attended school there.
- Joseph was _____ years old when he lived here.



1855 St. Louis, Missouri

- Joseph attended and graduated high school in St. Louis.
- Joseph was _____ years old when he lived here.



1855 Magoffinsville, Texas (near El Paso)

- After graduating, Joseph moved to Magoffinsville to work at his father's mercantile store.
- Joseph was _____ years old when he lived here.



1862 Marshall, Texas

- While serving in the Confederate Army, Joseph supplied troops in east Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas from his post in Marshall.
- Joseph was _____ years old when he lived here.



1863 Houston, Texas

- Joseph met his future wife, Octavia McGreal, in Houston between 1862 and 1864 while serving in the army.
- Joseph was _____ years old when he lived here.



1868 El Paso, Texas

- Joseph and his family moved to El Paso after his father's death to take over the Magoffin home and landholdings.
- Joseph was _____ years old when he lived here.

Images accessed digitally at Library of Congress (www.loc.gov). Octavia's portrait courtesy of Magoffin Home State Historic Site.

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Site Visit Recommendations

- Complete the pre-visit lesson or other introductory lessons prior to your field trip.
- Divide students into small groups, each with an adult chaperone.
- Make sure students bring pencils. Pens and markers are not allowed in the exhibits.

Information

To schedule a site visit field trip for your students, please call 915-533-5147.

For admission prices and hours of operation, please visit us online at <http://visitmagoffinhome.com>.

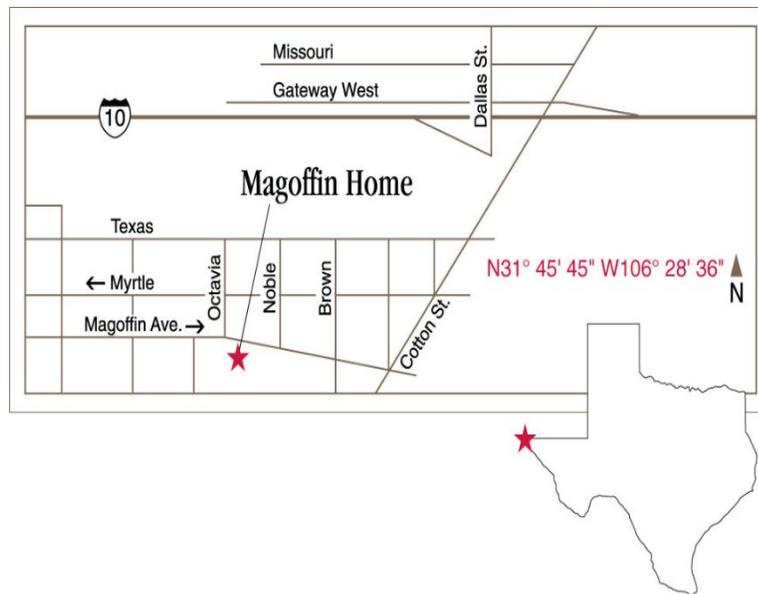
Contact Us

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