

# LESSON PLAN 3



“The role of the university is to provide imagination to help the public sector see that there is a better way that’s not only in their short-term economic interest but in the long-term economic interest of society as a whole.”

—Steven Moore, Director, Graduate Program in Sustainable Design, The University of Texas at Austin (*State of Tomorrow*™, Episode 11: *The New Urban Century*)

## The Curriculum

### PURPOSE

The *State of Tomorrow* curriculum is designed to help middle and high school students discover the variety of ways in which public colleges and universities serve their communities. Throughout the series, students will learn about people, organizations and universities across Texas working to identify and solve our toughest issues. Detailed lesson plans encourage students to explore career and educational opportunities in areas such as medicine, science, technology, and environmental quality. In its entirety, the *State of Tomorrow* curriculum will help students understand the relationship between universities and communities — and the positive impact public higher education makes in our lives and to the state and nation.

### THEME

Colleges and universities serve their communities through teaching that extends beyond the classroom and research programs dedicated to solving real-world challenges.

### TEXAS ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (TEKS)

This curriculum, appropriate for students in grades six through 12, is interdisciplinary and relevant under the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for the subjects: Social Studies, English and Science. A TEKS document (SOT\_teks.pdf) is included on the Resource CD and available at [www.stateoftomorrow.com/education](http://www.stateoftomorrow.com/education) with information arranged by subject and grade level.

## Materials

1. Key Words and Concepts handouts for each episode viewed
2. Featured Organizations by episode list (SOT\_featured\_orgs.pdf)
3. Project Directions (SOT\_project\_directions.pdf)
4. Research Organizer handouts (SOT\_research\_organizer.pdf)
5. Internet access
6. Poster board, magazines to cut up and art materials for students to create a final presentation

## Objectives

The student will:

- Use the Internet to find detailed information about a particular field of research featured in a *State of Tomorrow* segment that he/she found interesting.
- Summarize information using the Research Organizer handout.
- Design and create a poster or presentation that teaches others about jobs or careers in a selected research field, or highlights how the work of a specific research center is improving the lives of Texans and the world.

## Anticipatory Set

The teacher will:

1. Distribute Research Organizer handouts to students.
2. Say: “You will be using this organizer to investigate one of the areas of research we saw in *State of Tomorrow*. When you have completed your research organizer, you will create a poster or presentation of your findings that’s both engaging and informative.”

## Procedure(s)

The teacher will:

1. Distribute and explain the Project Directions.
2. Demonstrate how to complete the Research Organizer handout using one of the organizations outlined on the Featured Organizations by episode list.
3. Monitor and facilitate student progress.

## Closure

The teacher will display projects throughout the room and invite various students to share their poster or presentation.

## Evaluation

Evaluate the Research Organizer for completeness. Review student posters or presentations for creativity and inclusion of concepts outlined in the project directions, such as:

- Type of research.
- Issues or problems solved by work.
- Tasks performed on an average day.
- Most interesting thing about the job.
- How work of a specific research center is improving the lives of Texans and the world.