

*Program 7*

**TIC-TAC-AMERICA**

*Grades 5-9*

*Topics covered:* American history, the Presidency, U.S. geography

*Skills/knowledge addressed:*

- Ability to distinguish fact from opinion
- Decision making
- Ability to work in a group
- Some prior knowledge of facts/concepts of American history, geography and the Presidency is needed

*This program addresses various Social Studies TEKS for 5<sup>th</sup> grade US History, 6<sup>th</sup> grade World Cultures, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Texas History, 8<sup>th</sup> grade US History and World History*

**Students are divided into three groups**

**Questions are color coded by degree of difficulty, blue: level 1 or easy; yellow: level 2 or regular (including topics usually covered during a tour); and green: level 3, challenging**

*Description:*

*Setup:* The game is a version of Tic-Tac-Toe similar to the television show Hollywood Squares. The three groups of students are Team X, Team O and the nine “celebrity guests.” These individuals occupy the nine seats (squares) at the front of the class. Each team should choose a spokesman, whose answer will be the official answer, thus, learning to reach consensus since all the students tend to shout out their responses.

*Play:* The team whose turn it is chooses the person to be questioned. Each “celebrity” has a booklet containing the questions, correct answers and a suggested false answer. The Docent running the game draws a question and reads it. [The color-coding should help in choosing questions based on the groups’ abilities, whether they have taken the tour first, and how prepared they are. It is assumed that all groups will get a few questions from all levels to make the game more interesting.] The student giving an answer chooses to give either the true or false answer. The team must then decide if his/her response is correct or incorrect. If they are right, they win the square. As in Tic-Tac-Toe, a game is won when a team gets three squares in a row vertically, horizontally or diagonally. The winning team then gets to be the “celebrities” if there is time for another game.

**PLEASE READ THE CORRECT ANSWER AFTER A TEAM HAS DECIDED “CORRECT” OR “INCORRECT.”**