Welcome!

Dear TLX Team Explorer,

Hi! This is Ruby, Aiden, Ernesto, and Camille. We are the team leaders for TLX Explorers, State Research Division. We have been working hard to collect information on all fifty states to create State Explorer Handbooks for students across the country. But with so many states, and so many interesting places to go, it would take us years to travel the entire United States! We decided that the best people to provide the information would be YOU, someone who lives there! So, congratulations. You have been selected as a state explorer!

From our home states, we have emailed assignments to headquarters. You will find hard copies of these emails printed in this journal. For some assignments, you will be asked to research parts of your state and record facts. Other pages have room to create artwork, write stories, and compose letters. It is our hope that when you have completed your assignments, you will each have a book about your state. Then, your book can go in your school or classroom library to help us and other students learn facts about your state.

Your help is really going to make our research a lot easier! Have fun and good luck! We know you will do an awesome job! Enjoy learning about your fascinating state.

Sincerely,

The TLX Team Leaders
Welcome!

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- Assignment 2  State Map
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Congratulations!
- Visitor’s Page

Check off the following assignments as you complete them.
ASSIGNMENT 1: TEAM EXPLORER PROFILE

My name: ____________________________________________

My age: ___________ My birthday: ____________________

In my spare time I like to ____________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

I live in the state of ____________________________________________

Drawing of me:

Three interesting facts about me:

1. ____________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________
Create a map of your state. Include physical and political features such as waterways, landforms, and major cities. Also, add the names of bordering states. Don’t forget to note your location in the state.
ASSIGNMENT 3: STATE FUN FACTS

What does your state flag look like?

State capital: _____________________________

My community: ___________________________

State population: _________________________

State bird: _______________________________

Another interesting state symbol: ____________

Current governor: _________________________

Famous people from my state: _______________

Most interesting fact I know: _________________________

________________________________________
ASSIGNMENT 4: A LETTER TO YOUR TEACHER

What do YOU want to know about your state? By writing down what you are interested in, your teacher can help you learn more and teach you the things that you want to know! So, help out your teacher! Write a letter telling your teacher what you already know and what you would like to learn about your state this year. Think about places that you might want to go on a field trip, places you have been, and places you have questions about. Then, get ready to start the adventure!

A Letter to My Teacher

Dear ______________________,

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

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__________________________________________

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Sincerely,

__________________________________________, your new TLX Explorer
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 5, Landforms

My state has open, flat land that is great for raising cattle. My family has
been raising Texas Longhorns in our state since my great-grandfather
began our farm. Landforms influence what can be raised on farms. Think
about the farms in your state and what they produce. Create a billboard
showing products produced by farms in your state.
One of the biggest cities in my state is built where three rivers come together. Industries that used the waterways to transport goods helped the city grow. Before that, Native Americans settled near the rivers and used them for many things, like transportation. Rivers, lakes, and oceans played an important role for settlers across the United States. Find a waterway in your state that played an important role in settlement. Create a real estate advertisement for waterfront land highlighting how living near water benefits people in your state.
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 7, Weather

Many people in my state were affected by Hurricane Katrina. Coastal states like the one where I live can experience hurricanes. Ernesto e-mailed pictures of a snow storm he had last winter. I couldn’t believe all of that snow! What kinds of weather are common in your state? Write a weather report highlighting a week from each season in your state. Include high and low temperatures and symbols for storms, sun, and clouds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>WINTER</strong></th>
<th><strong>SPRING</strong></th>
<th><strong>SUMMER</strong></th>
<th><strong>FALL</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High:</td>
<td>High:</td>
<td>High:</td>
<td>High:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low:</td>
<td>Low:</td>
<td>Low:</td>
<td>Low:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Camille
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 8, Ecosystems

In 1989, an oil spill near the shores of my state caused a lot of harm to the ecosystem. The habitat of many native sea animals was greatly affected. What ecosystems are special to your state? Conduct some research and write a description of an ecosystem. Make sure to attach a photo or create a drawing of the ecosystem you have researched.

I have researched a(n) ____________________________ ecosystem.

Ecosystem description:

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Here is a picture of the ecosystem that I researched:
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 9, Neighbors

My state shares a border with another country, Mexico! Each year, many of my friends at school celebrate Cinco de Mayo, a Mexican holiday. My state shares a lot of culture with Mexico because of our close location. Think of a common cultural celebration that citizens of your state share with other states or nearby regions. Plan a celebration and create an invitation for a fellow TLX member!

From: AIDEN

---

**Come Celebrate with Me!**

From:  
To:  
Subject:  

When?  

Where?  

Why?  

Special activities will include:

-  
-  
-  
-  
-  

Please contribute to our special feast! Please bring the following dish:

-  

Hope to see you at the celebration!
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 10, Parks  

In my state, there are many state and national parks. One of them was the site of a volcanic eruption in 1980. Do you have state or national parks in your state? Do some research on a park in your state. Write a description, including unique geographical features such as landforms and habitat. Include a drawing or photograph in your report. Visit the park if you can!

Park name ____________________________________________________________

This park was established in ____________________________________________.

Park description:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Here is a picture of the park that I explored:
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 11, Native Americans  

My state is in the Southwest region of the United States. There were many Native American groups living in my state before settlers came, and they still live here today. These groups include the Pueblo and Navajo. What Native American groups have lived or currently live in your state? What do you know about their way of life? Write a descriptive report on a Native American group from your state. Be sure to include information on food, shelter, and customs.

A Native American Group in My State

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 12, Immigration

My family is originally from France. French immigrants had a great influence on my region of the United States. In fact, this part of the United States was once a colony of France. Some people where I live even speak a combination of French and English! How has immigration affected people in your state? Team up with an explorer in your class to learn about your families. Use the questions below as a guide to conduct an interview and to collect data on your family.

**Immigration Interview**

Interview of TLX Explorer ___________________________

(name of interviewee)

Q: What traditions or holidays do you share in your family?
A: _____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Q: How did older members of your family, like your parents or grandparents, celebrate these traditions?
A: _____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Q: Who, if anyone, in your family immigrated to the United States? If so, which country did they come from? Why did these members of your family move to the United States?
A: _____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Q: Why did members of your family move to our state?
A: _____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 13, History of Settlement

During the Dust Bowl, many farmers in my state lost so much of their profits that they were forced to move away. Throughout history, settlement has been affected by many things, including natural disasters, war, and hope for a better life. What do you think was the most important cause for early settlement of your state? Imagine you are an early settler in your state. Write a letter to your family, telling them about your decision to settle in a new place and the facts that affected your choice.

A Letter to My Family

Dated _______________

Dear ______________________________________,

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Love,

_________________________________________
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 14, Historic Landmarks

Last summer, my dad took my little brother Emilio and me to Gettysburg so I could take photographs for a class project. The Civil War had a great impact on the history of my state. Are there any famous battlefields, forts, or other historic landmarks in your state? What historic events took place in your state? Visit or research an important historic landmark. Why is it important to your state? Be sure to include photographs or drawings in your report.

I have chosen to research _____________________________.

(landmark)

This landmark is important to the history of my state because _____________________________.

___________________________.

___________________________.

I also found out that _____________________________.

___________________________.

Here is a picture of this important historic landmark:
To: All TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 15, Famous People

I love jazz! My MP3 player is filled with songs by Louis Armstrong and Sidney Bechet, jazz legends from my hometown. I recently wrote a report on the history of jazz in my state. I would have loved to interview these two great musicians! Think of an important historic figure from your state. Write six questions that you would like to ask that person in an interview. Research what the answers might have been.

A Famous Person From My State

Interview of ____________________________

(name of interviewee)

Q: _____________________________________________
A: _____________________________________________

Q: _____________________________________________
A: _____________________________________________

Q: _____________________________________________
A: _____________________________________________

Q: _____________________________________________
A: _____________________________________________

Q: _____________________________________________
A: _____________________________________________

Q: _____________________________________________
A: _____________________________________________

Q: _____________________________________________
A: _____________________________________________
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 16, Technology  

Thanks to the Internet and texting, it’s easy to keep in touch with my TLX teammates. Chloe and I send e-mails every week. She lives over 2,000 miles away, but I can talk to her instantly. I often wonder how I would have communicated with friends that are far away before telephones and computers. Imagine you are writing a newspaper article about the introduction of telephones in your state. How do you think people felt about this new technology? What do you think your predictions would have been for the future of communication?
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 17, Industry

My dad works in the steel industry. In fact, my state is known for the production and manufacture of steel. The steel industry provides a lot of jobs to our area. What industry is important to your state? What kinds of jobs do people do? Make a map of your state showing industry in different regions. Include a map key.
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 18, Shipping Goods

We often rely on neighboring farms for the fruits and vegetables we need. And, we raise cattle for people nationwide! States rely on each other to supply goods and services. What is produced in your state that other people rely on? Think about goods that are shipped from your state. How do these goods travel? Where do they go? Complete the shipping documents below to describe the goods, where they are from, and where they are going.

Shipping Documents

Date of shipment: ____________________________

To:  From:

__________________________  ____________________________

__________________________  ____________________________

__________________________  ____________________________

__________________________  ____________________________

Contents of package:

__________________________

__________________________

__________________________

__________________________

Shipping method (check one)

☐ Truck  ☐ Train  ☐ Ship  ☐ Plane

Estimated delivery date: ____________

From: AIDEN
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 19, Tourism  

Have you ever seen the Space Needle? If not, you should check it out! It is a symbol of pride for my state. People all over the world recognize it, and many tourists go there when they visit my state. Tourists spend a lot of money, and that helps our state’s economy. If tourists were coming to your state, where would you take them? Design a brochure showcasing a tourist spot in your state. If you can, collect some brochures from sites in your state that you would like to visit. You can use them as a model for your brochure.
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 20, A Trip to the Stadium

Soccer is definitely my favorite sport! I play on my neighborhood rec-center team. We have many professional sports teams in my state—baseball, football, and even soccer! People in my state really support our teams. Visitors to the stadiums bring a lot of money to our state’s economy. Does your state have a sports team? Research the cost of the items from the table below and plan a trip to the stadium for you and three of your friends.

---

We are heading to the stadium!

We are going to see __________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What do we need?</th>
<th>How much for each?</th>
<th>What’s the total?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Tickets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Drinks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Sandwiches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Snacks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Souvenir T-Shirts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How much is the trip total? What could you do to help save money on this trip?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Did the trip cost more or less than you expected? Why?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 21, A New Restaurant  

I love to cook! Many people come to my state to enjoy our unique cuisine. Someday, I hope to open my own restaurant that specializes in food from my state. If you were to start a restaurant that specialized in food from your state, what would you serve? Create a menu for a new restaurant! Include the name of your restaurant, your state specialties, and prices.
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 22, State Budget

Someday, I hope to be a photographer. I recently went to an awesome photography exhibit. My state provided money to help pay for the exhibit. State government is responsible for paying for many services. Without a budget, a state can’t provide programs for its citizens. If you were the governor, how would you budget your state’s money? Create a circle graph that shows the amount of your state budget you would spend on the following six programs: 1. Education, 2. Roads and Transportation, 3. State Safety Officers, 4. Museums and Parks, 5. Industry and Agriculture, and 6. Public Health.

My State Budget

In your budget, what program has the most money? Why?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

In your budget, what program has the least money? Why?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 23, Running for Governor

Kids at my school want to start a service club. Helping others is very important to us. I think if I was class president, I could work with teachers at my school to make the club a success! Governors are like the class presidents of a state. They make choices about issues that are important to the state’s citizens. Maybe some day I’ll run for governor! If you were running for governor of your state, what would your campaign poster look like? What would your slogan be? Design a campaign poster. Make sure to include a slogan on your poster.

From: CAMILLE

My Campaign Poster
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 24, State Laws

I always make sure my little brother remembers his bicycle helmet when we ride our bikes to the park. In my state, it’s the law. Does your state have bicycle laws? What kind of laws are there in your state to keep kids safe? Research and find two laws designed to keep kids safe. Write two laws of your own.

---

**Laws in My State**

Law Number 1

Law Number 2

My New Law

This new law is important because

My New Law

This new law is important because

---
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 25, The Capitol

Someday, I hope to be an architect. The government buildings in my state really inspire me. My favorite is the capitol. It was built in 1928 in Olympia. Research your capitol and complete an investigative report. Also, use the space below to design your own capitol.

The capitol of my state is located in the city of ____________________________.
It was built in _____________ and was designed by ____________________________.
My favorite features of the capitol are ____________________________.
The government leaders who work in the capitol are ____________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________

New Capitol Design
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 26, State Symbols

My state has a lot of state symbols. Our state fruit is the apple, and our state bird is the willow goldfinch. I started a campaign to make the gray wolf our state mammal. I wrote a letter to my state legislature explaining why we should adopt this endangered species as a symbol for our state.

If you were going to choose a new state symbol, what would it be? Write a letter to your state government explaining the new state symbol and why it is a good choice to represent your state.

---

New State Symbol

Dear State Representative,  

[Template for writing a letter]

Thank you for your time,

_________________________
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 27, State Quarter

Each state has its own quarter. My state’s quarter came out in 2002. That was almost 200 years after this land became a state. My state’s design includes a picture of a trumpet to showcase my state’s musical history. Based on what you have discovered about your state so far, design a new quarter that includes interesting facts about where you live. Be sure to include the year that your land became a state!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New State Quarter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

My area was granted statehood in __________________________.  

I chose this design for the new quarter because __________________________  

______________________________  

______________________________
To: TLX State Explorer Headquarters  
Subject: ASSIGNMENT 28, Volunteering

My friends and I began a campaign to collect school supplies for kids in need. I created flyers to post around my city and even e-mailed them to people outside my community. Volunteers helped us deliver the supplies to schools around my state. I’d like to create a Web page that would allow people from around the United States to help our cause. Research an organization in your state that provides volunteer opportunities. Use the space below to develop a Web site homepage that tells about the organization and how people can volunteer.
Dear TLX Team Explorer-

Congratulations! You have successfully completed your State Explorer’s Handbook. Share your discoveries with others by putting your handbook in your school or classroom library. Your hard work will help you and fellow explorers as you learn more about your state, this country, and the world! As you share your research with teammates, be sure to have them sign the visitor’s page in the back of the handbook.

Thanks again for your hard work! Keep Exploring!

Sincerely,

Ruby

Aiden

Ernesto

Camille
VISITOR’S PAGE

Visitor’s Page

I learned that:

I learned that:

I learned that:

I learned that:

I learned that:

I learned that: