



Tom Lea, *Great River of the North*, 1982. Oil on canvas, 58 " x 45"
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Maury Page Kemp, El Paso.

Mighty Horses on El Camino Real

3rd Grade Blended Curriculum

Mighty Horses on El Camino Real tells the story of the coming of the horse to the Southwestern United States during the 1598 El Camino Real expedition of Juan de Oñate. It brought significant changes to the Southwest as the horse, other livestock, European agriculture, ranching, mining, and Catholicism were introduced. The digital Teacher's Kit includes TEKS correlated lesson plans, slides, a video game, a play, a coloring book and a storybook. Through the art of Tom Lea, José Cisneros and the Equestrian monument of John Houser students learn about the contributions of the Indigenous peoples, the Spanish, the Mexican, and the mestizo's travelers. A video game challenges students to "pack their wagon" and use critical thinking skills to overcome perils of the journey. Students perform a play about "La Toma" and the First Thanksgiving celebration. Student materials are bilingual Spanish.

The 3rd-grade History and English Language Arts/Reading curriculum, *Mighty Horses on El Camino Real* is being developed by the Tom Lea Institute in partnership with San Elizario ISD, UT El Paso, Consul General of Mexico, Honorary Consul of Spain, and the XII Travelers Memorial of the Southwest, Inc.



John & Ethan Houser below
The Equestrian
Photo Courtesy of Jodi Schwartz

Mighty Horses on El Camino Real sparks connections to students' ancestry. "Studies have demonstrated students who participate in this area of study are more likely to increase their reading, writing, math and science skills - improved test scores, increased attendance, on time graduation, articulation to post-secondary education and scholarship attainment." Georgina Pérez, El Paso Representative, State Board of Education

- Character Qualities in Mighty Horses***
- **Obedience** Doing my duty with a positive attitude.
 - **Gratefulness** Showing thankfulness for what I have and what others do for me.
 - **Respect** Treating others as I want to be treated.
 - *It's clear that teaching character and essential skills in schools has the potential to have a real impact on the outcomes for pupils, particularly those from disadvantaged homes.*
- Kevan Collins Chief Executive of
the Educational Endowment Foundation

