What are Texas Partners? (Equipment Buddies)

Texas Partners is meant to be a quick and easy way to create pairs for partnered activities while avoiding the problem of students always having the SAME partners. It begins with an equipment chart with slots for four partners’ names.

What’s the Best Way to Set It Up?
Texas Partners are chosen by giving each student a Texas Partner chart with a blank line under each Texas symbol. Students then go to classmates to find a partner for each of the four symbols. For example, if Mike goes to Joe, Joe signs Mike’s armadillo symbol and Mike signs Joe’s armadillo symbol at the same time.

Here are some tips to following when setting up the buddy chart:

- Students attach their Texas Partners chart on the inside cover of their Social Studies notebooks.
- Students should not use a partner name twice.
- So students will have a variety of partners, tell them that they may choose a friend, someone they don't know very well, someone they've never worked with before, someone who has different color hair, or different color eyes, etc.
- When you want students to work with a partner, call out a random symbol, for example, “It’s time to work with your bluebonnet partner.” Students will look at their chart and then move to and work with the partner whose name is on corresponding symbol slot.