

Texas Jobs Then Today

Compare regional work from the past and today.

4.11.A “identify how people in different regions of Texas earn their living, past and present;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that names work people did, not a place where they worked. Write P by a past occurrence and T by a today occurrence, and use both labels when the same work appears in both times.

How Texans Earned a Living

- ① On the High Plains of the Texas Panhandle, grasslands once supported large cattle ranches. Cowboys rode out to care for herds and move cattle to rail lines. Today, many people still raise cattle there. Others farm wheat, corn, and cotton. Powerful machines help plant and harvest the crops. Wind farms also provide jobs for workers who build and maintain turbines.
- ② Along the Texas Gulf Coast, in the past, people earned money by catching shrimp and fish. At busy ports, dockworkers loaded goods onto ships. Today, commercial fishers still bring seafood to market. Other workers refine oil, make chemicals, or repair ships at coastal shipyards. Tourism also supports hotel workers, restaurant workers, and fishing guides for visitors from many places.
- ③ In the pine forests of East Texas, logging crews cut trees and mills turned logs into lumber in the past. Railroads carried the lumber to growing towns. Today, forestry workers still grow, harvest, and replant trees. Mills continue to make wood products. In nearby towns, some people work in schools, hospitals, stores, and small businesses. These jobs show that a region can support several ways of earning a living.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What kind of work supported people in the Texas Panhandle in both the past and today?

2 What present-day work in the Texas Panhandle uses machines to plant and harvest crops?

3 Name one way people earned a living on the Gulf Coast in the past and one way they earn a living there today.

4 How has work in East Texas stayed the same and changed from the past to today?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a Texas region not named in the passage. Write three sentences that name the region, tell one way people earned a living there in the past, and tell one way people earn a living there today.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that names work people did, not a place where they worked. Write P by a past occurrence and T by a today occurrence, and use both labels when the same work appears in both times. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What kind of work supported people in the Texas Panhandle in both the past and today?	Cattle ranching, or raising cattle, supported people in both times.
2	What present-day work in the Texas Panhandle uses machines to plant and harvest crops?	Farming wheat, corn, and cotton.
3	Name one way people earned a living on the Gulf Coast in the past and one way they earn a living there today.	Past: catching shrimp and fish or loading goods onto ships. Today: commercial fishing, oil refining, chemical-making, ship repair, tourism work, or fishing guides.
4	How has work in East Texas stayed the same and changed from the past to today?	Tree work and mills were important in the past and still are today. Today, forestry workers also replant trees, and people work in schools, hospitals, stores, and small businesses.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the Rio Grande Valley, people raised cattle on ranches in the past. Today, many farmers grow citrus fruit and vegetables. These jobs use the region's warm climate and fertile land.

Accept accurate past and present jobs connected to the named Texas region. For the open response, accept reasonable regional examples that include all three required ideas.