

Texas Jobs and Land

Find how climate and natural resources shape work in Texas.

4.11.B “explain how physical geographic factors such as climate and natural resources have influenced the location of economic activities in Texas;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each physical geographic factor. Circle each economic activity, then number each factor and the activity it helps make possible with the same number.

Land, Weather, and Work

- ① Texas has many kinds of land and weather, so people do different jobs in different places. Along the Gulf Coast, a warm climate and nearby seawater support shrimping. Fishing boats bring shrimp to docks, where workers sort, pack, and sell the catch. The coast also has ports, so ships can carry seafood and other goods to markets.
- ② Farther inland, parts of West Texas contain oil and natural gas deep underground. This natural resource led energy companies to drill wells and build pipelines there. Workers extract the fuels, maintain equipment, and move the oil and gas to refineries or buyers. The dry, open land can also be useful for wind turbines, which produce electricity from strong winds.
- ③ On the High Plains of Texas, wide, level land helps farmers use large machines. The region's sunny days and long growing season help crops such as cotton grow. Because rainfall is often low, many farms need irrigation water. Ranching is also common where grasses grow on broad areas of land, giving cattle room to graze before they are sold.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do the warm climate and nearby seawater influence work along the Gulf Coast?

2 Why do ports on the Gulf Coast help economic activities there?

3 Explain how oil and natural gas have influenced economic activities in parts of West Texas.

4 How does low rainfall influence farming on the High Plains?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a Texas community. Write three sentences that name one physical geographic factor, name an economic activity that could happen there, and explain how the factor makes that activity likely.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each physical geographic factor. Circle each economic activity, then number each factor and the activity it helps make possible with the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the warm climate and nearby seawater influence work along the Gulf Coast?	They support shrimping. Workers also sort, pack, and sell the shrimp at docks.
2	Why do ports on the Gulf Coast help economic activities there?	Ports allow ships to carry seafood and other goods to markets.
3	Explain how oil and natural gas have influenced economic activities in parts of West Texas.	Oil and natural gas led companies to drill wells and build pipelines. Workers extract the fuels, maintain equipment, and move the oil and gas to refineries or buyers.
4	How does low rainfall influence farming on the High Plains?	Because rainfall is often low, many farms need irrigation water.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a sunny, windy part of West Texas, a community could build wind turbines. Strong winds can turn the turbines and make electricity. This physical factor makes wind-energy work likely in that area.

Accept any reasonable Texas-based example that correctly links a physical factor, such as climate, land, water, wind, or a natural resource, to an economic activity. The explanation must clearly state how the factor supports the activity.