

Texas Work Trails

Read how land, people, and connections shaped Texas jobs.

4.11 "Economics. The student understands patterns of work and economic activities in Texas. The student is expected to: 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 way Texans earn money. Circle each physical geographic factor or resource, then number the transportation or communication developments in the order they appear.

How Texas Work Changed

- ① Texas has several regions, and people have used each region's land and resources to earn a living. On the Gulf Coast, warm water and bays supported fishing and shrimping. Ports later helped workers load cotton, oil, and other goods onto ships. In the High Plains, wide, flat land and grasslands supported cattle ranching. Today, farmers there also grow crops such as cotton and wheat.
- ② Explorers and settlers traveled through Texas looking for land, trade routes, and resources. Later, immigrants from other countries and migrants from other states brought skills and started farms, stores, and businesses. Rail lines and towns grew as more people arrived. Texas did not have unlimited water, timber, or fertile soil in every place. When a resource was scarce, people sometimes moved, changed jobs, or found ways to use less of it.
- ③ Transportation and communication changed where Texans could buy and sell goods. Stagecoach routes and railroads connected farms and ranches to towns and distant markets. Highways and trucks later carried oil equipment, food, and manufactured products more quickly. Today, airplanes move people and valuable goods, while telephones and the internet let businesses contact customers, compare prices, and arrange deliveries across Texas and beyond.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Gulf Coast water and High Plains land support different ways of earning a living? Give one example for each region.

2 What were explorers looking for, and how did later immigrants and migrants help Texas grow?

3 What could people do when a resource, such as water, timber, or fertile soil, was scarce?

4 Name two transportation or communication developments from the passage. Explain how they helped economic activities.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a Texas region. Write exactly four sentences that name one way people earn a living there, explain a physical factor, describe one change caused by people moving there or by a limited resource, and explain how transportation or communication helps the work.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each way Texans earn money. Circle each physical geographic factor or resource, then number the transportation or communication developments in the order they appear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Gulf Coast water and High Plains land support different ways of earning a living? Give one example for each region.	Gulf Coast warm water and bays supported fishing and shrimping. High Plains flat land and grasslands supported cattle ranching and farming.
2	What were explorers looking for, and how did later immigrants and migrants help Texas grow?	Explorers looked for land, trade routes, and resources. Immigrants and migrants brought skills and started farms, stores, and businesses, helping towns and rail lines grow.
3	What could people do when a resource, such as water, timber, or fertile soil, was scarce?	They could move, change jobs, or find ways to use less of the resource.
4	Name two transportation or communication developments from the passage. Explain how they helped economic activities.	Answers may name railroads, highways and trucks, airplanes, telephones, or the internet. They connected sellers to markets, moved goods or people, or helped businesses contact customers, compare prices, and arrange deliveries.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the Panhandle, people earn money by growing wheat and raising cattle. Flat land and grasslands support this work. As more families moved there, towns and businesses grew to serve farms and ranches. Roads, railroads, and internet connections help workers sell products and arrange deliveries.

Accept accurate Texas regions and economic activities that show a clear cause-and-effect connection to geography, movement of people or limited resources, and transportation or communication. The four-sentence response may use different accurate examples than the passage.