

Texas Land Clues

Compare Texas regions by their land, plants, and weather.

4.6.B “compare the physical regions of Texas (Mountains and Basins, Great Plains, North Central Plains, Coastal Plains).”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each physical region name. Underline one land, plant, or weather detail for each region so you can compare the regions.

Four Regions, Different Land

- ① Texas has four large physical regions. In far West Texas, the Mountains and Basins region has the state’s highest mountains, including Guadalupe Peak. Much of this region has desert areas, scarce rainfall, and plants that grow far apart. The land also includes basins, which are low areas between mountain ranges. These features make it look very different from wetter parts of Texas.
- ② The Great Plains stretch across the Panhandle and central part of Texas. This region has wide grasslands, flat or rolling land, and canyons cut by rivers. East of it, the North Central Plains also have rolling hills and grasslands. However, the North Central Plains have more trees and brush in many places. Both regions can support ranching, but their plant cover is not the same.
- ③ The Coastal Plains run along the Gulf of Mexico and reach inland across eastern and southern Texas. This region has low, mostly flat land, many rivers, forests, and rich soil. It usually gets more rainfall than the drier Mountains and Basins region. Unlike the high mountains of far West Texas, the Coastal Plains include beaches, bays, and broad prairies near the coast.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How are the Great Plains and the North Central Plains alike? How are they different?

2 Compare the Mountains and Basins region with the Coastal Plains. Tell about rainfall and land.

3 Which region has desert areas? Give two details that show why much of this region has desert conditions.

4 How does the location of the Coastal Plains differ from the location of the Great Plains?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences comparing the Mountains and Basins region with the North Central Plains. Include two differences, and use the words *both*, *but*, and *unlike*.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each physical region name. Underline one land, plant, or weather detail for each region so you can compare the regions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are the Great Plains and the North Central Plains alike? How are they different?	Both have grasslands and rolling land, but the North Central Plains have more trees and brush in many places.
2	Compare the Mountains and Basins region with the Coastal Plains. Tell about rainfall and land.	Much of the Mountains and Basins region has scarce rainfall, desert areas, and high mountains. The Coastal Plains get more rainfall and have low, mostly flat land.
3	Which region has desert areas? Give two details that show why much of this region has desert conditions.	The Mountains and Basins region. It has scarce rainfall and plants that grow far apart.
4	How does the location of the Coastal Plains differ from the location of the Great Plains?	The Coastal Plains are along the Gulf of Mexico and extend across eastern and southern Texas. The Great Plains are across the Panhandle and central Texas.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both regions have plants, but the plants grow differently. Much of the Mountains and Basins region has desert areas and scarce rainfall. Unlike that region, the North Central Plains have rolling hills with more trees and brush in many places.

Accept accurate comparisons supported by the passage. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences, two valid differences, and correct use of both, but, and unlike.