

Texas Region Detectives

Read closely to locate, describe, and compare Texas regions.

4.6 "Geography. The student understands the concept of regions. The student is expected to: identify, locate, and describe 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 region name, underline one clue about its land, climate, plants, or jobs, and number the regions 1 through 4 as they appear.

Four Parts of Texas

- ① Texas has four large physical regions. In far west, the Mountains and Basins region has high mountains, desert basins, and dry air. Cacti and other desert plants grow there. Mining and tourism are important activities. East of this region, the Great Plains stretch across the Panhandle and west-central Texas. This region has high, flat grasslands, little rainfall, and ranching and farming.
- ② South and east of the Great Plains are the North Central Plains. Rolling hills, prairies, and some wooded areas shape this region. It gets more rain than the Great Plains, but summers can be hot and winters can be cool. Farmers grow crops such as wheat, and ranchers raise cattle. Oil and natural gas also support jobs in parts of the region.
- ③ The Coastal Plains cover much of eastern and southern Texas and reach the Gulf of Mexico. This region includes forests, rivers, flat coastal land, and sandy beaches. It is usually humid and receives more rain than western Texas. People farm, fish, ship goods through ports, and work in energy industries. All four regions have people using natural resources, but their land, plants, and weather differ.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which region is in far west Texas? Name two landforms found there.

2 How is rainfall in the North Central Plains different from rainfall in the Great Plains?

3 Where are the Coastal Plains located? Give two physical features of this region.

4 Compare one job or economic activity in the Mountains and Basins with one in the Coastal Plains.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Complete the chart to compare all four Texas regions. Use a short phrase for each location, physical characteristic, and economic activity.

REGION	LOCATION IN TEXAS	ONE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTIC	ONE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each region name, underline one clue about its land, climate, plants, or jobs, and number the regions 1 through 4 as they appear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which region is in far west Texas? Name two landforms found there.	Mountains and Basins. It has high mountains and desert basins.
2	How is rainfall in the North Central Plains different from rainfall in the Great Plains?	The North Central Plains get more rain than the Great Plains.
3	Where are the Coastal Plains located? Give two physical features of this region.	They are in eastern and southern Texas and reach the Gulf of Mexico. Features include forests, rivers, flat coastal land, and sandy beaches.
4	Compare one job or economic activity in the Mountains and Basins with one in the Coastal Plains.	Answers may state that mining or tourism is important in the Mountains and Basins, while farming, fishing, shipping, or energy work occurs in the Coastal Plains.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

REGION	LOCATION IN TEXAS	ONE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTIC	ONE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
Mountains and Basins	far west Texas	high mountains and desert basins	mining
Great Plains	Panhandle and west-central Texas	high, flat grasslands	ranching
North Central Plains	south and east of the Great Plains	rolling hills and prairies	growing wheat
Coastal Plains	eastern and southern Texas, near the Gulf of Mexico	forests and flat coastal land	fishing

Accept equivalent details from the passage, including any listed landform, climate, vegetation, or economic activity. For the chart, each region should have a correct location and a matching physical and economic detail.