

Texas Places, People

Read how Texas land and climate shape settlement patterns.

4.7.A “explain the geographic factors such as landforms and climate that influence patterns of settlement and the distribution of population in Texas, past and present; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each landform or climate factor, and circle the words that explain its effect on where people settled or lived.

Why Texans Settled Where They Did

- ① Long before Texas became a state, Caddo people built communities in the forests and river valleys of East Texas. Regular rainfall and nearby rivers supplied water for crops. Fertile soil helped people grow corn, beans, and squash. Because water and good soil were close by, many families could live together in the same area and farm nearby each season.
- ② In central and western Texas, broad plains had grasslands but less rainfall than East Texas. With less water for crops, families often lived farther apart. In the past and today, ranchers used wide, open land to raise cattle, so ranches covered large areas. Some towns grew near springs or rivers, where people and animals could get water.
- ③ Houston grew beside Buffalo Bayou. Through the Houston Ship Channel, this waterway connects to the Gulf of Mexico. These waterways supported travel, shipping, and trade, helping the city grow. Today, its coastal location, roads, jobs, and services draw many people. Heavy rain and hurricanes can cause flooding, so people plan where and how to build.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did regular rainfall, rivers, and fertile soil affect where Caddo people lived?

2 Why did families often live farther apart on the central and western Texas plains?

3 Which landform helped ranchers raise cattle, and how did it affect the size of ranches?

4 How did Buffalo Bayou and the Houston Ship Channel help Houston grow?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a new Texas town. Write exactly three sentences that name one landform and one climate condition, then explain how they would affect where people live and how many people might settle there.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each landform or climate factor, and circle the words that explain its effect on where people settled or lived. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did regular rainfall, rivers, and fertile soil affect where Caddo people lived?	They provided water and good soil for crops, so many families could live and farm in the same area.
2	Why did families often live farther apart on the central and western Texas plains?	The plains received less rainfall, so there was less water for crops.
3	Which landform helped ranchers raise cattle, and how did it affect the size of ranches?	Broad, open plains helped ranchers raise cattle, and ranches covered large areas.
4	How did Buffalo Bayou and the Houston Ship Channel help Houston grow?	The waterways supported travel, shipping, and trade with the Gulf of Mexico.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would build a town near a spring on open plains where rain is limited. The spring would provide water, but dry weather would make farms and homes spread far apart. The town would likely have fewer people than a place with several rivers and regular rain.

Accept answers that connect a stated landform or climate condition to settlement location, spacing, or population size. For the open response, accept reasonable predictions when the student clearly explains the geographic cause and effect.