

Texas Town Trails

Read how Texas settlement locations changed over time.

4.7.B “identify and explain patterns of settlement such as the location of towns and cities in Texas at different time periods.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each clue that tells when, circle each reason a town or city grew in a certain place, and number the three time periods 1, 2, and 3.

Why Texas Towns Grew

- ① Long before Texas became a state, Native peoples lived in communities near water, food, and travel routes. In the 1700s, Spanish leaders built missions and presidios, or forts, near rivers and roads. San Antonio grew where the San Antonio River supplied water. El Paso developed near a river crossing and routes through the far western desert.
- ② During the 1800s, many Texas towns formed along trails, rivers, and the Gulf Coast. Steamboats carried people and goods on some rivers, while ships used coastal ports. Galveston became an important port city because its island harbor connected Texas to sea trade. Later, railroads helped towns such as Dallas and Fort Worth grow where rail lines met.
- ③ In the 1900s, oil discoveries caused some small towns to grow quickly near oil fields. Highways later made it easier for people and businesses to travel between cities. Today, large cities including Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, and Austin continue to grow. Jobs, schools, roads, and nearby resources draw people, so settlement patterns change over time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What pattern did Spanish settlement show in the 1700s? Give two location details from the passage.

2 Why did Galveston become an important city during the 1800s?

3 How did railroads affect the location and growth of some Texas towns in the 1800s?

4 Name one reason settlement patterns changed in the 1900s and explain how it affected towns or cities.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine you are choosing a site for a new Texas town in the 1700s, 1800s, or 1900s. Name the town and write three sentences that state the time period, describe its location, and explain two reasons people would settle there.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each clue that tells when, circle each reason a town or city grew in a certain place, and number the three time periods 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What pattern did Spanish settlement show in the 1700s? Give two location details from the passage.	Spanish missions and forts were built near rivers and roads. San Antonio grew by a river, and El Paso grew near a river crossing and travel routes.
2	Why did Galveston become an important city during the 1800s?	Its island harbor connected Texas to sea trade, making it an important port city.
3	How did railroads affect the location and growth of some Texas towns in the 1800s?	Towns such as Dallas and Fort Worth grew where rail lines met.
4	Name one reason settlement patterns changed in the 1900s and explain how it affected towns or cities.	Oil discoveries made some small towns grow near oil fields, or highways made travel between cities easier.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Riverbend is a new town in the 1700s. It sits beside a river and near a road used by travelers. People settle there because the river provides water and the road helps them travel.

Accept answers that use the passage's time periods and correctly connect settlement locations to water, transportation, trade, oil, jobs, or resources. For the open response, accept a plausible invented town with exactly three sentences that includes a period, location, and two reasons.