

Texas Through Eras

Trace change by grouping Texas history into meaningful periods.

7.1 "History. The student understands traditional historical points of reference in Texas history. The student is expected to: identify the major eras in Texas history, describe their defining characteristics..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every era name and write 1 through 12 beside the names in order. Circle each date, then draw a short line from it to the era it helps explain.

How Texas History Is Organized

- ① Historians divide Texas's long past into eras, or periods with shared events and conditions. This helps people organize change and compare what mattered at different times. Natural Texas and its People describes Native peoples and the land before sustained European influence. The Age of Contact began when Europeans reached the region. In 1519, Spanish explorers mapped the Texas coast. Spanish colonial efforts later brought the first mainland Spanish settlement to Texas. Spanish Colonial rule followed. In 1718, Spain founded San Antonio, creating a lasting settlement and mission center.
- ② Mexican National Texas began in 1821, when Mexico won independence from Spain. Tension over government and immigration led to the Revolution and Republic. Texas declared independence in 1836 and governed itself as a republic. Early Statehood began with annexation by the United States in 1845. Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction opened in 1861, when the Civil War began, and continued through rebuilding afterward. In 1876, Texans adopted the current state constitution. Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads then connected farms, ranches, towns, and markets.
- ③ The Age of Oil began after oil was discovered at Spindletop in 1901. Petroleum jobs and money changed communities. Texas in the Great Depression and World War II includes hard economic times, followed by wartime factories, military training, and service. The Civil Rights era features Texans' efforts to challenge unequal treatment and gain equal rights. Contemporary Texas covers recent decades, when a growing, diverse population has shaped technology, cities, education, and public debates. Era names are not walls, because changes can begin in one era and continue into another.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did 1519 and 1718 mark, and which era does each event help explain?

2 How did 1821, 1836, and 1845 mark changes in Texas's political status?

3 What happened in 1861, 1876, and 1901? Name the era connected to each date.

4 Why do historians divide the past into eras? Use two era names from the passage to show how an era name can highlight change.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences. Choose Texas in the Great Depression and World War II, Civil Rights, or Contemporary Texas. Name one defining characteristic, compare it with a nearby era, and explain how dividing history into eras helps people notice the change.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every era name and write 1 through 12 beside the names in order. Circle each date, then draw a short line from it to the era it helps explain. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did 1519 and 1718 mark, and which era does each event help explain?	In 1519, Spanish explorers mapped the Texas coast, helping explain the Age of Contact. In 1718, Spain founded San Antonio, helping explain the Spanish Colonial era.
2	How did 1821, 1836, and 1845 mark changes in Texas's political status?	In 1821, Mexico became independent from Spain. In 1836, Texas became an independent republic. In 1845, Texas was annexed by the United States and entered Early Statehood.
3	What happened in 1861, 1876, and 1901? Name the era connected to each date.	In 1861, the Civil War began, starting Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction. In 1876, Texans adopted the current state constitution during that era. In 1901, oil was discovered at Spindletop, beginning the Age of Oil.
4	Why do historians divide the past into eras? Use two era names from the passage to show how an era name can highlight change.	Eras help historians organize change and compare what mattered at different times. For example, Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads highlights connected farms and markets, while the Age of Oil highlights petroleum jobs and money.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I chose Texas in the Great Depression and World War II. Its defining characteristics include economic hardship, then wartime factories, military training, and service. It differs from the Age of Oil, when petroleum jobs and money changed communities. Dividing the past into eras helps historians see Texas shift from oil growth to hardship and wartime work.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the events and eras when they match the passage. For the open response, accept any of the three listed eras, an accurate comparison to a neighboring era, and a clear explanation that eras make change easier to organize or compare.