

Texas Culture Traces

Find cultural influences in the places, words, traditions, and arts of Texas.

7.18.C “identify examples of Spanish influence and the influence of other cultures on Texas such as place names, vocabulary, religion, architecture, food, and the arts; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each example of cultural influence in the passage. Write P, V, R, A, F, or AR beside each one for place name, vocabulary, religion, architecture, food, or arts.

Many Cultures, One Texas

- ① Many Texas places carry Spanish names that tell stories about the past. San Antonio means Saint Anthony, and Rio Grande means Big River. Spanish settlers and missionaries brought words that became part of Texas speech. Ranch, from rancho, means land used to raise livestock; vaquero refers to a cowboy. Catholic missions, including Mission San José in San Antonio, helped spread Christianity. Their stone churches and courtyards show Spanish colonial architecture. These features remain visible in communities across the state today.
- ② Other groups also shaped Texas culture. German immigrants built communities such as Fredericksburg and introduced foods like sausage and baked goods. Czech Texans kept traditions such as kolaches, pastries often filled with fruit or cheese. African American Texans contributed deeply to music, including blues and jazz, which influenced later Texas musicians. Mexican culture continues to shape family meals, celebrations, and arts. Tejano music blends Mexican musical traditions with other styles and is heard statewide today.
- ③ Cultural influence can be noticed in ordinary places. A restaurant menu might offer barbacoa, a Spanish-language word for a style of slow-cooking meat. At a festival, you might hear conjunto music, often played with an accordion and bajo sexto. In towns settled by Germans, buildings may use limestone and have steep roofs. Texas culture is not the result of one group. It developed as Indigenous peoples, Spanish colonists, Mexicans, and later communities shared and adapted ideas across many generations.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name one Texas place name in the passage with Spanish roots. What does it mean?

2 What do the Spanish-derived words ranch and vaquero mean?

3 Identify one food example connected to German culture and one food example connected to Czech tradition in Texas.

4 Name one music tradition influenced by African American Texans and one architecture feature found in German-settled towns.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Complete the chart with three different cultural influences on Texas. Include one Spanish influence and two influences from other cultures, and do not repeat a category.

CULTURE	TEXAS EXAMPLE	CATEGORY

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each example of cultural influence in the passage. Write P, V, R, A, F, or AR beside each one for place name, vocabulary, religion, architecture, food, or arts. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name one Texas place name in the passage with Spanish roots. What does it mean?	San Antonio means Saint Anthony. Rio Grande means Big River.
2	What do the Spanish-derived words ranch and vaquero mean?	Ranch means land used to raise livestock. Vaquero refers to a cowboy.
3	Identify one food example connected to German culture and one food example connected to Czech tradition in Texas.	German culture is connected to sausage or baked goods. Czech tradition is connected to kolaches.
4	Name one music tradition influenced by African American Texans and one architecture feature found in German-settled towns.	Music traditions include blues or jazz. Architecture features include limestone buildings or steep roofs.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

CULTURE	TEXAS EXAMPLE	CATEGORY
Spanish colonists	Rio Grande	place name
German Texans	Limestone buildings in German-settled towns	architecture
African American Texans	Blues music	arts

Accept accurate examples from the passage that correctly connect a culture to a Texas example and category. For the chart, accept other accurate Texas examples if the student includes one Spanish influence, two other cultures, and three different categories.