

Texas Data Detectives

Read tables and map descriptions to trace change across Texas history.

7.21.A “create and interpret thematic maps, graphs, and charts representing various aspects of Texas during the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that explain how to read a table or graph, circle the three thematic-map topics, and number the nineteenth-, twentieth-, and twenty-first-century examples 1, 2, and 3.

Texas Changes in Data

- ① Texas has changed greatly across three centuries. A chart can show change over time without showing places. The census table lists Texas population at five points from 1850 to 2020. Read the year labels first, then compare the numbers. A bar graph made from these data would use years on one axis and population on the other.

TEXAS POPULATION AT SELECTED CENSUS YEARS

Census Year	Texas Population
1850	212,592
1900	3,048,710
1950	7,711,194
2000	20,851,820
2020	29,145,505

- ② To interpret the table, look for its overall pattern and its largest comparison. Texas had fewer people in 1850 than in 1900, and its population kept rising in every listed census year. The increase from 2000 to 2020 was more than 8 million people. A graph makes this long-term rise easy to see.
- ③ A thematic map focuses on one topic in places, such as railroads, cotton production, or population density. A nineteenth-century cotton map could use darker shading where cotton was grown most. A twentieth-century railroad map could show routes connecting cities. A twenty-first-century population-density map could reveal crowded metropolitan areas. Map titles, keys, and dates help readers identify the topic, symbols, and time period.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 If you made a bar graph from the table, what would you place on the two axes?

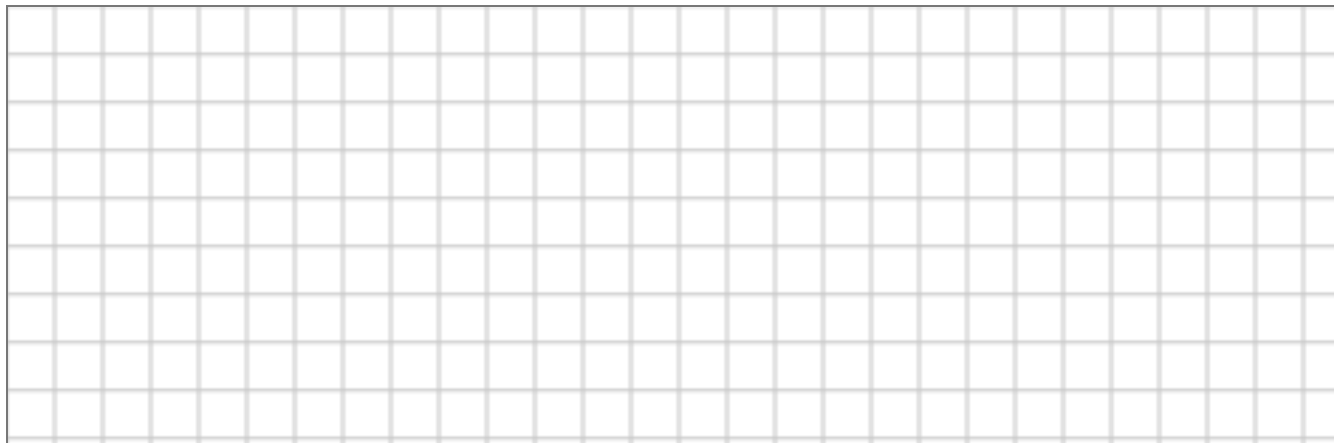
2 What overall population pattern does the table show from 1850 through 2020?

3 Between which two adjacent listed census years did Texas have the largest population increase? Use the table to support your answer.

4 Which thematic map described in the passage represents the twenty-first century, and what could it reveal?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Use all five table values to create a bar graph on the grid. Include a title, labeled axes, and a scale, then write two sentences explaining the interval with the greatest population increase.



PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that explain how to read a table or graph, circle the three thematic-map topics, and number the nineteenth-, twentieth-, and twenty-first-century examples 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	If you made a bar graph from the table, what would you place on the two axes?	Put census years on one axis and Texas population on the other axis.
2	What overall population pattern does the table show from 1850 through 2020?	Texas population increased at every listed census year.
3	Between which two adjacent listed census years did Texas have the largest population increase? Use the table to support your answer.	From 1950 to 2000. The population increased from 7,711,194 to 20,851,820, about 13.1 million people.
4	Which thematic map described in the passage represents the twenty-first century, and what could it reveal?	A population-density map. It could reveal crowded metropolitan areas.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Graph title: Texas Population at Selected Census Years. Horizontal axis: Census Year. Vertical axis: Population in Millions, scaled from 0 to 30. Bars: 1850, 0.21; 1900, 3.05; 1950, 7.71; 2000, 20.85; 2020, 29.15. The greatest increase occurred from 1950 to 2000, when Texas grew from 7.71 million to 20.85 million. This shows that population growth was much faster in that interval than in the other listed intervals.

Accept equivalent axis labels, a reasonable population scale, and bars that accurately represent the table values, including rounded values when the scale is in millions. For the written explanation, students should identify 1950 to 2000 and support it with the data or an accurate increase of about 13.1 million.