

# Texas Pattern Shifts

Trace how work and population locations changed across Texas history.

**7.21.B** “analyze and interpret geographic distributions and patterns in Texas during the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries.”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each place or region. Then write 1, 2, or 3 beside details from the 1800s, 1900s, and 2000s or 2010s so you can track changes in where Texans lived and worked.

### Where Texans Lived and Worked

- ① In the mid-1800s, cotton farms spread across East Texas, where rainfall, rivers, and fertile soil supported the crop. Enslaved people were forced to work on many large plantations before the Civil War. Towns such as Marshall and Nacogdoches served nearby farms. West Texas had fewer settlers because much of it was dry, far from markets, and contested by Indigenous peoples and Mexico during parts of the century. The pattern placed most cotton production and many people in the wetter eastern part of Texas.
- ② During the early 1900s, oil discoveries changed Texas patterns. The 1901 Spindletop well near Beaumont drew workers and businesses to the Gulf Coast. Later, large fields in the Permian Basin made Midland and Odessa important energy centers in West Texas. Pipelines, railroads, and ports moved oil to refineries and markets. Oil jobs appeared in separated parts of the state, unlike the earlier cotton belt. Yet people still clustered where work, transportation, and water made settlement easier.
- ③ In the 2000s and 2010s, Texas added people fastest in major metro areas, especially Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio. These cities offered jobs in technology, health care, trade, education, and other services. Major highways and airports linked them to the nation and world. Some rural counties lost population or grew slowly as young adults moved toward urban jobs and colleges. This pattern differs from the nineteenth-century cotton belt and the twentieth-century oil fields, although natural resources still matter in places such as the Permian Basin.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

- 1** How did the location of Texas's main economic activity change from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s? Name the regions described.

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- 2** Which transportation connections helped oil jobs develop in separated parts of Texas, and how did they help?

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- 3** What population pattern does the final paragraph describe? Give one cause named in the passage.

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- 4** What does comparing all three periods show about the relationship between work and where Texans lived?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that make a claim about how the center of Texas population and work shifted from the 1800s to the 2000s and 2010s. Use one location detail from two different periods and explain a reason for the shift.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each place or region. Then write 1, 2, or 3 beside details from the 1800s, 1900s, and 2000s or 2010s so you can track changes in where Texans lived and worked. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                                         | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How did the location of Texas's main economic activity change from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s? Name the regions described. | <b>Cotton production was concentrated in wetter East Texas in the mid-1800s. By the early 1900s, oil activity grew near the Gulf Coast and later in West Texas's Permian Basin.</b> |
| 2 | Which transportation connections helped oil jobs develop in separated parts of Texas, and how did they help?                     | <b>Pipelines, railroads, and ports moved oil to refineries and markets. These connections supported oil jobs in places far apart, including the Gulf Coast and West Texas.</b>      |
| 3 | What population pattern does the final paragraph describe? Give one cause named in the passage.                                  | <b>Major metro areas grew fastest, while some rural counties lost population or grew slowly. Cities drew people with varied jobs, colleges, and transportation links.</b>           |
| 4 | What does comparing all three periods show about the relationship between work and where Texans lived?                           | <b>Texans tended to cluster near economic opportunities. The locations changed from East Texas cotton farms to oil regions and then to major metro areas with varied jobs.</b>      |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Texas work and population centers shifted from the wetter east to several urban regions. In the mid-1800s, East Texas cotton farms attracted settlement because rainfall, rivers, and fertile soil supported crops. In the 2000s and 2010s, metro areas such as Houston and Austin grew fastest because they offered varied jobs and transportation links.

Accept equivalent comparisons that accurately connect economic opportunities, resources, transportation, or services to where people lived and worked. For the open response, require three sentences, accurate evidence from two periods, and a reasonable explanation of change.