

Texas Places Matter

Compare physical and human characteristics across Texas.

7.8.B “locate and compare places of importance in Texas in terms of physical and human characteristics such as major cities, waterways, natural and historic landmarks, political and cultural regions, and local points of interest; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline physical characteristics, circle human characteristics, and number the three Texas places in the order they appear. Your marks will help you compare why each place is important.

Three Important Texas Places

- ① El Paso stands in far West Texas beside the Rio Grande, which forms part of the border with Mexico. The Franklin Mountains rise through the city, giving it a dry desert setting unlike much of Texas. El Paso is a major city and an international border community. Its location connects Texas with Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, through bridges and trade. Spanish and Mexican traditions shape local food, language, celebrations, and the region’s cultural identity. These traditions remain visible today.
- ② San Antonio lies in south-central Texas, where the San Antonio River winds through the city. The river supports the River Walk, a downtown network of walkways, shops, and public spaces. San Antonio is also home to the Alamo and four other Spanish colonial missions that are part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. These historic landmarks show the city’s role in Texas history. The city’s large population and blended Indigenous, Mexican, Spanish, and Anglo influences make it an important cultural center.
- ③ Galveston sits on Galveston Island along the Gulf of Mexico on the Texas coast. Its beaches, bay waters, and low elevation are physical features that affect life there. The city grew as a Gulf port, and its harbor still links Texas to ocean trade. After the devastating 1900 hurricane, residents built the Galveston Seawall to reduce storm damage. The historic Strand district, with nineteenth-century commercial buildings, reflects Galveston’s past as a busy port city and remains a local point of interest.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How is El Paso's physical setting different from Galveston's physical setting?

2 What human feature in San Antonio developed along the San Antonio River, and how does it use the river?

3 Which place is an international border community? Give one detail from the passage that supports your answer.

4 Compare why San Antonio and Galveston are important to Texas. Include one human characteristic for each place.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two important Texas places that are not named in the passage. In four or five sentences, compare one physical characteristic and one human characteristic of each place, then explain why each place matters to Texas.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline physical characteristics, circle human characteristics, and number the three Texas places in the order they appear. Your marks will help you compare why each place is important. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is El Paso's physical setting different from Galveston's physical setting?	El Paso has a dry desert setting and the Franklin Mountains. Galveston is an island on the Gulf Coast with beaches, bay waters, and low elevation.
2	What human feature in San Antonio developed along the San Antonio River, and how does it use the river?	The River Walk developed along the river. It uses the river area for downtown walkways, shops, and public spaces.
3	Which place is an international border community? Give one detail from the passage that supports your answer.	El Paso. It is beside the Rio Grande at the Mexico border and connects with Ciudad Juárez through bridges and trade.
4	Compare why San Antonio and Galveston are important to Texas. Include one human characteristic for each place.	San Antonio is important for historic landmarks such as the Alamo and missions and for its cultural influences. Galveston is important as a Gulf port with ocean trade and historic commercial buildings in the Strand district.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Austin, in Central Texas along the Colorado River, is the state capital, so state government is a major human characteristic. Its river and nearby Hill Country are physical characteristics. Unlike Austin's large urban setting, Big Bend National Park in far West Texas has desert, mountains, canyons, and the Rio Grande. The park protects these natural landscapes and draws visitors, while Austin is important as a political center.

Accept accurate comparisons supported by the passage for Questions 1 through 4. For Your Turn, accept any two Texas places not named in the passage when the response accurately identifies and compares physical and human characteristics.