

Forces That Changed Texas

Analyze how physical and human factors shaped major Texas events.

7.8.C “analyze the effects of physical and human factors such as climate, weather, landforms, irrigation, transportation, and communication on major events in Texas.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each physical factor, circle each human factor, and draw an arrow from each marked factor to the effect it caused or influenced.

Texas Events and Their Causes

- ① In September 1900, the Galveston hurricane became one of the deadliest disasters in U.S. history. Galveston stood on a low barrier island beside the Gulf of Mexico. Warm Gulf water helped fuel the storm, and powerful winds pushed a storm surge across the flat island. The surge flooded homes, streets, and rail lines. Because Galveston had no seawall at the time, water reached much of the city. Damaged telegraph lines and limited warning messages left many residents unaware of the danger.
- ② After the disaster, Galveston's leaders built a seawall and raised parts of the city. These human changes reduced flooding from later storms, although they could not remove all risk. The hurricane also affected transportation and trade. Before 1900, Galveston was Texas's leading port. When its docks and rail connections were damaged, shipping slowed. Houston's inland location along Buffalo Bayou, plus improved railroads and the Houston Ship Channel, helped Houston grow into a major port and business center in later decades.
- ③ Physical conditions also shaped Texas during the drought of the 1950s. Years of low rainfall dried reservoirs, harmed crops, and threatened water supplies in many communities. Farmers and towns expanded irrigation, drilled wells, and built or enlarged reservoirs. Those human responses moved water to fields and cities, but heavy pumping also lowered some groundwater supplies. The drought pushed Texans to support new water planning and conservation. Climate created the crisis, while technology, transportation of water, and communication among communities influenced how people responded.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Galveston's landform and its lack of a seawall make the 1900 hurricane more damaging?

2 How did damaged communication and transportation increase the effects of the Galveston hurricane?

3 Why did Houston grow as a port and business center after the Galveston hurricane? Use both a physical factor and human factors from the passage.

4 How did climate cause the 1950s drought crisis, and how did people respond to it?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a Texas community facing a three-year drought. Write 3 or 4 sentences that name one physical factor and at least two human factors, then explain how they affect the community's water supply or daily life.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each physical factor, circle each human factor, and draw an arrow from each marked factor to the effect it caused or influenced. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Galveston's landform and its lack of a seawall make the 1900 hurricane more damaging?	Galveston was a low, flat barrier island, so storm surge could spread across it. Without a seawall, water reached much of the city.
2	How did damaged communication and transportation increase the effects of the Galveston hurricane?	Damaged telegraph lines and limited warnings left many people unaware of danger. Damaged docks and rail connections slowed shipping and trade.
3	Why did Houston grow as a port and business center after the Galveston hurricane? Use both a physical factor and human factors from the passage.	Houston's inland location along Buffalo Bayou was a physical advantage. Improved railroads and the Houston Ship Channel, along with damage to Galveston's shipping connections, helped Houston grow.
4	How did climate cause the 1950s drought crisis, and how did people respond to it?	Years of low rainfall dried reservoirs, harmed crops, and threatened water supplies. People expanded irrigation, drilled wells, built or enlarged reservoirs, and supported water planning and conservation.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Cedar Bend, three years of low rainfall shrank the reservoir, so farms had less water and the town limited outdoor use. The county used tanker trucks to bring water from a nearby lake and sent phone alerts about water rules. These transportation and communication choices protected drinking water, but the deliveries cost the town money.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For the open response, accept varied realistic Texas scenarios if the student identifies one physical factor, two human factors, and clear effects.