

Texas Place Patterns

Trace how land, location, and people shape Texas regions.

7.8 "Geography. The student understands the location and characteristics of places and regions of Texas. The student is expected to: locate and compare the Mountains and Basins, Great Plains, North Central Plains, and Coastal Plains regions..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each physical feature, circle each named city or landmark, and number the sentences that explain how a physical or human factor affected people or events.

Land, Water, and Connections in Texas

- ① Texas has four major physical regions, each with a different location and landscape. The Mountains and Basins region lies in far West Texas. It includes desert basins, rugged mountains, and the Rio Grande near Big Bend. East of it, the Great Plains stretch across the Panhandle and west-central Texas. The flat, high Llano Estacado and the steep Caprock Escarpment are important landforms there. These regions are generally drier than eastern Texas, so water and farming choices matter.
- ② The North Central Plains form a rolling belt between the Great Plains and the Coastal Plains. Grasslands, wooded areas, and rivers helped communities grow. Fort Worth, a major city in this region, became a cattle-shipping center because railroads connected ranchers to distant markets. The Coastal Plains extend from East Texas to the Gulf of Mexico. This region has pine forests, fertile soils, bays, and broad river valleys. Houston's port links Texas products with ships and global trade.
- ③ Physical and human factors can shape Texas events. In 1900, a powerful hurricane struck Galveston, a Gulf Coast city. Its island location exposed people to storm surge and high winds. After the disaster, leaders raised parts of the city and built a seawall, showing how engineering changed life near the coast. In dry Great Plains areas, irrigation can bring groundwater to crops, while highways, railroads, and communication networks move people, goods, and information across long distances.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Compare the locations of the Mountains and Basins region and the Great Plains. Where is each region located in Texas?

- 2 How did a human factor help Fort Worth become a cattle-shipping center?

- 3 What physical factor made the 1900 Galveston hurricane especially dangerous, and what did leaders do afterward?

- 4 Compare one way irrigation helps the Great Plains with one way transportation and communication networks help Texas.

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Complete the chart for two different Texas regions. For each region, identify its location and one physical characteristic, name an important place from the passage, and explain one factor that affects people, work, or events there.

REGION	LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTIC	IMPORTANT PLACE	FACTOR AND EFFECT

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each physical feature, circle each named city or landmark, and number the sentences that explain how a physical or human factor affected people or events. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare the locations of the Mountains and Basins region and the Great Plains. Where is each region located in Texas?	The Mountains and Basins region is in far West Texas. The Great Plains are east of it, across the Panhandle and west-central Texas.
2	How did a human factor help Fort Worth become a cattle-shipping center?	Railroads connected ranchers in the area to distant markets, helping Fort Worth become a cattle-shipping center.
3	What physical factor made the 1900 Galveston hurricane especially dangerous, and what did leaders do afterward?	Galveston's island location exposed people to storm surge and high winds. Leaders raised parts of the city and built a seawall.
4	Compare one way irrigation helps the Great Plains with one way transportation and communication networks help Texas.	Irrigation can bring groundwater to crops in dry Great Plains areas. Highways, railroads, and communication networks move people, goods, and information across long distances.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

REGION	LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTIC	IMPORTANT PLACE	FACTOR AND EFFECT
Mountains and Basins	Far West Texas, with desert basins and rugged mountains	Big Bend	Dry conditions make water and farming choices important.
Great Plains	Panhandle and west-central Texas, with the flat, high Llano Estacado	Llano Estacado	Dry conditions make irrigation important for bringing groundwater to crops.

Accept accurate region-place pairings and effects stated in the passage. Students may choose any two regions, as long as each row includes a correct location, physical characteristic, important place, and relevant physical or human factor.