

# Texas Changed by Place

Trace how geography shaped Texas communities and decisions.

**7.9.B** “explain ways in which geographic factors such as the Galveston Hurricane of 1900, the Dust Bowl, limited water resources, and alternative energy sources have affected the political, economic, and social development of Texas.”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

**YOUR JOB** Underline each geographic factor in the passage. Circle each effect it caused, then write P, E, or S beside the effect to show whether it is political, economic, or social.

### Geography Shapes Texas

- ① On September 8, 1900, a powerful hurricane and storm surge struck Galveston, then Texas's leading port city. Thousands of people died, and homes, businesses, and rail connections were destroyed. The disaster changed social life as survivors rebuilt neighborhoods and sought safer housing. City leaders raised the island's grade and built a seawall, political decisions meant to reduce future danger. As shipping shifted toward Houston's protected port and ship channel, Galveston's economic influence declined while Houston grew.
- ② During the 1930s, drought and poor farming practices helped create Dust Bowl conditions in parts of the Texas Panhandle. Wind carried away dry topsoil, harming farms and cutting crop income. Some families left their communities to look for work, changing the social makeup of towns. Government agencies promoted soil conservation, showing a political response to geographic crisis. Texas later built reservoirs and managed groundwater because water is limited and unevenly available, affecting where farms, cities, and industries can grow.
- ③ Texas also has geographic advantages for alternative energy. Strong winds on the plains and along the coast support wind farms, while sunny areas support solar power. These projects create construction and maintenance jobs and can bring tax revenue to local communities. State decisions about power lines and electricity rules affect whether energy can move from rural producing areas to cities. New energy work can change community life, but projects may also raise debates about land use, costs, and protecting wildlife.

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

- 1** Explain one economic effect of the Galveston Hurricane of 1900 and one political response to the disaster.

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- 2** How did Dust Bowl conditions affect both farm income and the people living in Panhandle towns?

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- 3** Why did Texas build reservoirs and manage groundwater, and how can limited water affect development?

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- 4** What state decisions can affect alternative energy in Texas, and why do those decisions matter?

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

Choose two geographic factors from the passage. Write 4 or 5 sentences comparing how they affected Texas, including at least one political, economic, and social effect. Use cause-and-effect words such as because, so, or as a result.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each geographic factor in the passage. Circle each effect it caused, then write P, E, or S beside the effect to show whether it is political, economic, or social. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                   | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Explain one economic effect of the Galveston Hurricane of 1900 and one political response to the disaster. | <b>The hurricane destroyed businesses and rail connections, and Galveston's economic influence later declined as Houston grew. City leaders raised the island's grade and built a seawall.</b> |
| 2 | How did Dust Bowl conditions affect both farm income and the people living in Panhandle towns?             | <b>Wind carried away topsoil, harming farms and cutting crop income. Some families left their communities to look for work, changing the social makeup of towns.</b>                           |
| 3 | Why did Texas build reservoirs and manage groundwater, and how can limited water affect development?       | <b>Texas did this because water is limited and unevenly available. Limited water affects where farms, cities, and industries can grow.</b>                                                     |
| 4 | What state decisions can affect alternative energy in Texas, and why do those decisions matter?            | <b>State decisions about power lines and electricity rules can affect alternative energy. They matter because they affect whether energy can move from rural producing areas to cities.</b>    |

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

The Galveston Hurricane of 1900 damaged businesses and rail connections, so Galveston lost economic influence as Houston grew. Because the storm killed thousands of people, survivors rebuilt neighborhoods and searched for safer homes. In response, city leaders raised the island's grade and built a seawall, a political effort to reduce danger. Likewise, Dust Bowl conditions cut farm income and led some families to leave Panhandle communities.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations that connect each geographic factor to political, economic, or social development. For the open response, students may choose any two factors from the passage, as long as all three types of effects are included accurately.