

Texas Changes and Choices

Trace how Texans respond to geographic challenges.

7.9 "Geography. The student understands the effects of the interaction between humans and the environment in Texas. The student is expected to: identify ways in which Texans have adapted to and modified the environment and explain the positive..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline human actions, circle each positive consequence, and write a minus sign beside each negative consequence so you can trace how Texas choices affect people and places.

People, Places, and Texas Decisions

- ① In 1900, a powerful hurricane and storm surge devastated Galveston, killing thousands of people and damaging homes, businesses, and the port. In response, Texans modified the island city. Workers raised the city's grade in many areas and built a long seawall. These projects helped protect people and property from later storms, supporting Galveston's recovery and economy. They were also expensive, and seawalls can change beach movement and contribute to erosion. The disaster also led Galveston to adopt a commission form of city government to manage rebuilding.
- ② During the 1930s Dust Bowl, drought and strong winds struck the Texas Panhandle. Years of plowing native grasslands for crops had left much soil loose. Wind lifted the dry topsoil into dust storms, hurting farms and forcing some families to move for work. Farmers and government agencies responded with contour plowing, cover crops, and other soil-conservation methods. These practices helped hold soil and supported long-term farming. Yet crop losses, debt, and migration damaged local economies and changed the social life of many Panhandle communities.
- ③ Texas communities also face limited water resources. Dams, reservoirs, irrigation systems, and groundwater wells store or move water for cities, farms, and industry. Conservation rules, such as limits on outdoor watering, help Texans adapt when supplies are low. These choices can protect water for daily life and economic growth, but dams can flood habitats, while water projects cost money and can cause political disagreements. Texas has also expanded wind and solar energy. These alternative sources create jobs and produce electricity without burning fuel, but need transmission lines and output changes with weather.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two changes did Galveston make after the 1900 hurricane? State one benefit and one possible negative consequence of those changes.

2 Explain how human land use made the Dust Bowl's effects worse. Then name one response and one social or economic consequence.

3 How can water conservation rules and dams affect Texas differently? Give one positive result and one negative result from the passage.

4 How has alternative energy affected Texas economic development, and what challenge does it create?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A Texas town has hot, dry summers and steady winds. Complete the table with two actions the town could take, identify whether each action is an adaptation or a modification, and explain one positive and one possible negative consequence of each action.

TOWN ACTION	ADAPTATION OR MODIFICATION?	POSITIVE CONSEQUENCE	POSSIBLE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCE

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

As you read, underline human actions, circle each positive consequence, and write a minus sign beside each negative consequence so you can trace how Texas choices affect people and places. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two changes did Galveston make after the 1900 hurricane? State one benefit and one possible negative consequence of those changes.	Galveston raised the city's grade and built a seawall. The changes helped protect people and property, but they were expensive and seawalls can contribute to beach erosion.
2	Explain how human land use made the Dust Bowl's effects worse. Then name one response and one social or economic consequence.	Plowing native grasslands left soil loose, so wind could lift it into dust storms. Texans used methods such as contour plowing or cover crops. Crop losses, debt, migration, and damage to local economies were consequences.
3	How can water conservation rules and dams affect Texas differently? Give one positive result and one negative result from the passage.	Conservation rules can protect water when supplies are low. Dams can store or move water, but they can flood habitats. Water projects can also cost money and cause political disagreements.
4	How has alternative energy affected Texas economic development, and what challenge does it create?	Wind and solar energy create jobs and produce electricity without burning fuel. They need transmission lines, and their output changes with weather.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

TOWN ACTION	ADAPTATION OR MODIFICATION?	POSITIVE CONSEQUENCE	POSSIBLE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCE
Set a drought watering schedule	Adaptation	Saves water for homes and businesses	Residents may dislike limits, and lawns may dry out.
Build wind turbines outside town	Modification	Creates jobs and produces electricity without burning fuel	Turbines need transmission lines, and power changes with weather.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the passage's actions and consequences. For Part 3, accept reasonable Texas-based solutions when the student correctly identifies adaptation or modification and gives logical positive and negative consequences.